THE

MONTHLY EPITOME,

For JUNE 1800.

XL. *An Account of a Voyage in ſearch of La Pérouſe*, undertaken by Order of the Conſtituent Aſſembly of France, and performed in the Years 1791, 1792, and 1793, in the Recherche and Eſpérance, Ships of War, under the Command of Rear-admiral Bruni d' Entrecaſteaux. Tranſlated from the French of M. LABILLARDIERE, Correſpondent of the ci-devant Academy of Sciences, Member of the Society of Natural Hiſtory of Paris, and one of the Naturaliſts attached to the Expedition. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. 423. Illuſtrated by Engravings, in 4to. and a Chart, exhibiting the Track of the Ships. 1l. 11s. 6d. *Debrett.*

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Engraved by Angus, Warren, Walker, Birrell, Eaſtgate, Sparrow, Taylor, &c.

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"THE Voyage in ſearch of La Pérouſe had long ceaſed to engage the attention of the curious, and even ſeemed almoſt to have eſcaped the memory of the general claſs of readers, when, after a lapſe of ſeven years, one of the naturaliſts embarked on the expedition, recently publiſhed an account of it, a correct and unmutilated tranſlation of which will be found in the following ſheets; but, as M. Labillardière, in his Introduction, has not aſſigned any reaſon for the tardy appearance of his work, it may perhaps be not altogether unintereſting to ſtate briefly the principal cauſes which have occaſioned this delay.

"It will be ſeen towards the end of the ſecond volume, that, after the death of Captain Huon and of Rear-admiral d'Entrecaſteaux, the command of the expedition devolved on M. Dauribeau, who had been previouſly appointed captain of the Eſpérance. While the ſhips lay off Sourabaya, one of the principal ſettlements of the Dutch in the iſland of Java, an account was received there of war having broken out between France and Holland. Although the council of Sourabaya at firſt detained the French officer ſent to procure pilots to carry the ſhips into the road, they ſoon received orders from the regency of Batavia not only to admit the French ſhips, but to furniſh them and their crews with every neceſſary of which they might ſtand in need. The dyſentery having at this time made conſiderable ravages on board, moſt of the gentlemen belonging to the expedition took up their reſidence on ſhore. It appears that, three months after this, ſome freſh news having arrived from Europe, M. Dauribeau and the principal officers came to a reſolution of hoiſting the white flag, as the emblem of their attachment to the old monarchical government of France, and putting themſelves under the protection of the Dutch, they cauſed all the officers, naturaliſts, and ſuch of the people belonging to the two ſhips as they thought would eſpouſe the republican cauſe, to be apprehended and thrown into priſon. M. Dauribeau at the ſame time ſeized upon all the collections of the naturaliſts, and ſoon after prevailed on the governor of Samarang to cauſe their effects to be ſearched, in order to get poſſeſſion of the manuſcripts containing the obſervations which they had made during the voyage; but M. Labillardière and his friend M. Legrand ſaved their jour-

nals. The officers and other perſons of the republican party were in the ſequel transferred to the priſons of Batavia, and after a long confinement in the vicinity of that unhealthy ſpot, were exchanged, and ſent to the Iſle of France. The Recherche and the Eſpérance being left without men ſufficient to navigate them, an inventory was taken of their furniture, ſtores, &c. by commiſſioners appointed on both ſides; and theſe, together with the ſhips, were received by the regency of Batavia, to anſwer the advances made in proviſions, and in other kinds of ſuccour afforded to the officers and crews; the regency engaging that the Dutch government ſhould account for the ſurplus to the King of France. M. Dauribeau died on the 22d of Auguſt 1794; and M. Roſſel, then firſt lieutenant of the Recherche, conſequently becoming the ſenior officer in command, took into his charge Admiral d'Entrecaſteaux's journal, with all the charts, plans, drawings, ſpecimens of natural hiſtory, &c. and early in the year 1795 embarked with them for Europe, in the Hoogly, a Dutch Eaſt-Indiaman, bound from Batavia to Amſterdam. On the 9th of June following, this and ſeven more Dutch ſhips that were in company with her were captured off St. Helena by his Majeſty's ſhip the Sceptre of 64 guns, commanded by Captain Eſſington, who was bringing home his prizes, when, in conſequence of the Hoogly ſpringing a leak, ſhe was ſo near foundering, as to make it neceſſary to take out all her people and abandon her: this ſervice was executed on the 2d of September, when Captain Eſſington ordered her to be ſet on fire. On the Sceptre's arrival in England, Captain Eſſington tranſmitted to the Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty ſuch of the journals, charts, plans, drawings, and collections in natural hiſtory belonging to Admiral d'Entrecaſteaux's expedition, as, previous to the capture of the Hoogly, M. Roſſel was conveying to Holland.

"On the 12th of March 1796 M. Labillardière arrived at Paris from the Iſle of France, and finding his collection of ſpecimens of natural hiſtory in the poſſeſſion of the Britiſh government, he urged the perſons exerciſing the government of France to claim them; this application being warmly ſeconded by Sir Joſeph Banks, they were delivered up with the moſt ſcrupulous exactneſs, and in a manner that reflects the higheſt honour on the perſons immediately concerned, and, with all the other papers, charts, plans, &c. tranſmitted to Paris in Auguſt 1796." *Vol.* i. *p.* xv.

"When Admiral d'Entrecaſteaux touched at the Cape of Good Hope, he received diſpatches from M. Saint-Felix, the French commander in chief on the India ſtation, enclofing him the depoſitions of two French captains of merchantmen, which ſtated that Captain Hunter, late of the Syrius frigate, when paſſing by the Admiralty Iſlands, in his voyage from Botany Bay to Batavia in a Dutch veſſel, perceived ſeveral canoes containing ſavages, ſome of whom appeared to him to be clothed in the uniform of the French navy, but with whom, from the contrariety of the winds and currents, he could not have any intercourſe. Notwithſtanding the improbability of the truth of this ſtatement, Admiral d'Entrecaſteaux, with a zeal highly honourable to his feelings, did not heſitate a ſingle moment; he changed the plan of his route, to haſten to the Admiralty Iſlands. His ardour not having been crowned with ſucceſs, he recommenced his ſearch in the order preſcribed by his inſtructions, and completely fulfilled them all, by exploring, as far as was in his power, thoſe coaſts, iſlands, &c. mentioned by La Pérouſe in his laſt letter, without being able to obtain the ſmalleſt information, or any thing like a ground for a probable conjecture, concerning the fate of a man whoſe ſkill, perſeverance, fortitude, and humanity, have juſtly entitled him to be placed at the head of thoſe navigators of whom France may well cheriſh a proud and grateful remembrance." *Vol.* i. *p.* xxiv.

EXTRACTS.

PHOSPHORIC PHENOMENON IN THE SEA.

"I HAD preſerved a few bottles of ſea-water, taken up the evening before during its phoſphoreſcence, to examine the little luminous bodies which are the cauſe of this phenomenon. This water, poured into a glaſs, was ſet in motion in the dark. I immediately

mediately ſaw ſome luminous globules which differed in no reſpect from thoſe which are commonly remarked when the ſea is agitated. It appeared to me quite an eaſy matter to try to ſeparate theſe bodies, in order to ſee whether the water would ſtill preſerve its phoſphoric quality: I ſtrained it through a piece of white-brown paper; ſome molecules, very gelatinous and tranſparent, the ſize of which was almoſt a third of a millimeter, remained in the ſtrainer, and from that time this ſea-water loſt all its phoſphoreſcence, which I reſtored to it at pleaſure, by throwing therein the little molecules. It was neceſſary not to leave theſe diminutive animals expoſed long to the air, for they ſoon loſt all their phoſphoric properties.

"I have ſeveral times repeated the ſame experiment in ſeas very diſtant from each other, and I have conſtantly found the ſame animalcules, which I conſider as the moſt ordinary cauſe of the phoſphoreſcence of ſea-water. However, they alone have not the property of rendering the ſea luminous; ſeveral ſpecies of crabs, ſome very large molecules, &c. often quit the bottom of the waters to come and illumine their ſurface: I have frequently ſeen theſe phoſphoric molecules of the ſize of a double decimeter; but I have always found, at the ſame time, the little luminous bodies which I have mentioned." *Vol.* i. *p.* 48.

MAN-OF-WAR BIRD.

"THE bird known by the name of man-of-war bird *(pelicanus aquilus*, Linn.) was the object of our admiration. On the 24th we perceived two, which, hovering at a prodigious height, were watching their prey, and waiting till it appeared on the ſurface of the water.

"Theſe birds, no doubt, keep at this great elevation in order to embrace with their eyes an immenſe ſpace; but it is very aſtoniſhing that they can ſee from ſuch a diſtance the ſmall fiſhes on which they moſt commonly feed: ſo penetrating a ſight depends, perhaps, more on the diſpoſition of the humours of the eye than on the great ſenſibility of the retina. This inveſtigation is worthy of the attention of the natural philoſopher.

"The man-of-war bird, as is well known, is very ravenous after flying-fiſhes. As ſoon as it perceives any, it deſcends from the upper regions of the atmoſphere, and comes to fly at about a hectometer above the ſurface of the ſea; there it remains ready to ſeize them as ſoon as they riſe out of the water. All the motions of the man-of-war bird are directed with admirable addreſs: it does not deſcend head foremoſt, like the other birds which ſeek their food under water; with the feet and tail placed horizontally on the ſame level, it ſtrikes the upper column of the air with its wings, and then raiſing them again, and fixing them one againſt the other above its back, that they may no longer oppoſe any reſiſtance to the air, it darts on its prey, and ſeizes it at a little diſtance from the water.

"While admiring the aſtoniſhing addreſs of this bird, the wiſhes of all of us were in favour of the flying-fiſh; but it ſeldom eſcapes. As it does not riſe much above the ſea, the man-of-war bird would run the riſk of falling headlong therein, if it did not know how to ſtop itſelf in its deſcent, by lowering its wings, in order to riſe again and purſue another prey.

"Notwithſtanding the faculty which Nature has given to flying-fiſhes of living in the water, and of coming out of it at pleaſure, it is difficult for them to avoid their numerous enemies: if they eſcape the voracity of the bonitoes, tunnies, and dolphins, by riſing out of the water, the man-of-war bird waits for them in the air; ſome of them, during this conflict, came and leaped into the ſhip." *Vol.* i. *p.* 50.

EXTRAORDINARY FLIGHT OF THE ALBATROSS.

"ALTHOUGH we were upwards of two hundred myriameters* from the Cape, we perceived ſeveral albatroſſes *(diomedea exulans)*, ſome of which, reſting on the ſurface of the ſea, ſuffered themſelves to be approached within a little diſtance.—They were ſeen, from time to time, burying their heads deeply in the water in ſearch of food.

"The manner of flying of theſe birds is very aſtoniſhing. The flap-

* A myriameter is about 5130 toiſes.

ping

ping of their wings is not perceptible till the moment when they take their flight; and very often they, at the ſame time, employ their feet, which, being palmated, ſerve them to ſtrike the water repeatedly, in order to raiſe themſelves: this impulſe once given, they have no longer any occaſion to flap their wings; they keep them very much ſpread, and ſeek their prey balancing themſelves alternately from right to left, and ſkimming rapidly along the ſurface of the ſea. The equilibrium thus obtained, ſerves, no doubt, to accelerate their progreſs; but it does not ſeem likely to be ſufficient for ſupporting them in the air. Perhaps an imperceptible tremor of their feathers is the principal cauſe of this extraordinary flight: on this ſuppoſition, they muſt neceſſarily have particular muſcles; for which reaſon I think that the anatomy of theſe birds merits the greateſt attention.

"The *puffins* of Buffon (*procellaria puffinus*, Linn.) were very numerous in theſe ſeas. The flight of this bird is executed by a mechaniſm analogous to that of the albatroſs, for it frequently flies a long time without any perceptible flapping of the wings; it is only when it inclines from one ſide to the other that it is ſeen to ſtrike the air with its loweſt wing, in order to turn about inſtantly." *Vol.* i. *p.* 116.

NATIVES OF BOUKA ISLAND—THEIR FONDNESS FOR MUSIC.

"A CANOE, containing nine ſavages, put off from the coaſt, and directed her courſe towards us. We immediately brought to, in order to wait for them; but they ſtopped when they were ſix hundred meters* from our ſhip: they pointed to their iſland, and invited us by ſigns to come on ſhore. In this canoe there were only ſeven paddlers; two other natives ſeemed to be ſolely employed in baling out the water which they ſhipped, and watching our motions.

"A ſavage who had put off alone from the coaſt in a catamaran, paddled with the greateſt rapidity, and came up to the canoe, which conſtantly kept to windward of us: he was a very old man, and yet remarkably ſtout. After having obſerved us for a few minutes, he returned towards the iſland as quickly as he had come: he probably was a meſſenger diſpatched by the inhabitants, and now returned to give them an account of what he had juſt ſeen.

"The canoe quitted us to go towards the Eſpérance; a very large one was already alongſide of her.

"We ſaw at a diſtance another ſmall canoe, carrying five natives, who came aſtern of our ſhip, from which they kept at about a hundred meters diſtance, notwithſtanding all the invitations that we made them to come on board.

"We put in the water a plank loaded with knives and nails, and to the end of a ſmall ſtick, fixed in its middle, was faſtened a piece of ſcarlet cloth in the form of a flag, in hopes of enticing the ſavages to come cloſer: however, they did not take poſſeſſion of theſe articles till we had cut the line that held them at a ſmall diſtance from our ſhip, which they would not approach. The ſight of the ſcarlet cloth diffuſed among them the moſt lively joy; they diſplayed it the moment they got hold of it, and aſked us for more with much earneſtneſs.

"We at length ſucceeded in attracting them quite cloſe to the ſhip, by throwing them ſome handkerchiefs, a few pieces of red cloth, and ſome empty bottles: one of theſe bottles having partly filled with ſalt-water, the ſavage who picked it up, thinking perhaps that it contained ſome liquor good to drink, was very diſagreeably deceived on diſcovering the contrary; we regretted not having been able to apprize him in time of this miſtake.

"Theſe natives perfectly underſtood traffic; they took good care to let us know the value which they ſet on their property.

"A very handſome bow was ſold to us for ſome handkerchiefs, which we had ſent them by means of a line; we likewiſe received ſome arrows. As they did not ſee among us this ſort of weapon, they tried to make us ſenſible of its value, by ſhowing us the manner in which they uſed it.

"One of the gunners fetched his violin, and played ſeveral tunes: we ſaw, with pleaſure, that they were

* A meter is about three feet.

not

not inſenſible to muſic; they offered a great number of articles in exchange, in order to obtain this inſtrument; they aſked for it by imitating, with a paddle held as a fiddle, the motions of our minſtrel. It may eaſily be imagined that their ſolicitations were unavailing: this was the only fiddle that ſerved to ſet the ſhip's company a dancing, and the voyage was not ſufficiently advanced for us to part with an inſtrument which promoted an exerciſe ſo conducive to the health of ſeamen.

"We loaded theſe ſavages with preſents in ſuch a manner, that they ſoon made the greateſt difficulties to give their effects in exchange for ours; and they frequently blended artifice with diſhoneſty in order to procure them. The admiral wiſhing to have a bow, ſome handkerchiefs ſtriped with red, the favourite colour of the ſavages, was the price agreed on: theſe were given to them in advance, too implicit a confidence being placed in their probity; as ſoon as they had received the handkerchiefs, they would not part with the bow, but only with ſome arrows, which were refuſed.

"Theſe natives are remarkable for the gaiety of their diſpoſition. They often took a pleaſure in repeating the words which they heard us pronounce; and this the ſoftneſs of their language enabled them to do with a great deal of facility.

"Being paſſionately fond of muſic, lively and noiſy tunes produced the greateſt effect on them. One of our officers, who played tolerably on the violin, ſtruck up a tune in very quick time, ſtopping double. At firſt they liſtened with the greateſt attention; aſtoniſhment was painted in all their countenances: preſently they were unable to contain their joy; while various motions of the arms, which perfectly accompanied the time, and a great agitation of the whole body, were unequivocal marks of their feeling.

"We did not loſe ſight of the wiſh that the admiral had expreſſed to have a bow: a native promiſed one in exchange for a hat; but no ſooner had he got the hat than he refuſed to part with the bow.

"Moſt of the articles that we lowered down to them were faſtened to the end of a line, which they did not give themſelves the trouble of untying, for they had in their girdle a ſhell ſharp enough to cut it immediately.

"As we were thoroughly juſtified in truſting no longer to their promiſes, one of our people was going over the ſtern of the ſhip, by means of a rope-ladder, in order to receive a bow for a piece of red cloth, when it was perceived that, being drifted to the north-weſt by the currents, we were already much too near to the coaſt. Our ſhip would no longer anſwer her helm, on account of the calm; and it was neceſſary to hoiſt out a boat immediately to tow her head round again to port. The ſavages thinking, no doubt, that our intention was to get hold of them, in order to puniſh them for their diſhoneſty, made off with the greateſt precipitation towards their iſland. In return, perhaps, for the patience with which we had ſuffered ourſelves to be robbed, they did not commit any act of treachery, as they had done towards the ſhip which Bougainville commanded in his voyage round the world.

"During all this time four canoes were communicating with the Eſpérance; one of theſe canoes carried forty natives, ſixteen of whom were employed in conducting her, each with a paddle; the others were warriors.

"We learnt from the Eſpérance, that this war canoe had kept for a long time at a diſtance, and that ſhe had not determined to approach till after the natives in the ſmaller canoes had ſhown their countrymen various articles which they had received.

"The order which prevailed in the diſtribution of the ſavages on board of this large canoe, indicates that they have a ſort of naval tactics. Between two paddlers placed on the ſides, a warrior ſtood up, holding in his hand a bow and arrows; ſome intermediate ranks were compoſed of two other warriors, and ſometimes of three, who had their head turned towards the ſtern of the canoe, in order to obſerve all the movements on that ſide, and to be ready to fight retreating. Theſe warriors had manifeſted no hoſtile views; they had ſeemed to take a pleaſure in drinking the brandy and the wine which had been given them;

them; they likewiſe ate ſome ſalt pork, but not without a certain degree of repugnance.

"The ſavages who came to our ſhip had excellent teeth, for they ate without any difficulty the hardeſt biſcuit that we could offer them.

"I know not whether theſe iſlanders have had any communication with the Engliſh and the Spaniards; but one of them holding up an arrow, which he had made faſt to the end of a line, in order that we might haul it in, pronounced very diſtinctly the Engliſh word *arrow*; and another making us a ſign to go on ſhore, and pointing to the iſland, pronounced the word *tierra*, which in Spaniſh ſignifies land.

"The captain of the Eſpérance told us, that ſeveral of theſe ſavages pronounced the term *Bouka*, the name which Bougainville gave to their iſland. This word, which in the Malay tongue is the expreſſion of negation, and which, when the firſt ſyllable is pronounced long, ſignifies to open, is no doubt a term in their language, which ſeems to have ſome analogy with the Malay; it however differs from it ſo much, that one of our people who ſpoke Malay with facility, could not underſtand them.

"The value they ſeemed to attach to the nails, and various articles of hardware which were given them, informed us that they were acquainted with the uſe of iron.

"Theſe ſavages are of middling ſtature; the colour of their ſkin is a light black; they wore no clothes, and their muſcles, ſtrongly marked, announced the greateſt ſtrength: their countenance is very far from agreeable, but it is full of expreſſion. They have a very big head, a broad forehead, which, like their whole face, is very flat, particularly below the noſe, the chin thick and prominent, rather high cheek bones, a broad flat noſe, a very wide mouth, and tolerably thin lips.

"Betel-root, with the blood-colour juice of which they tinge their large mouth, ſtill adds to the uglineſs of their face.

"Their ears, which were bored, were ornamented with very heavy rings made of ſhells, the weight of which had contributed to their great ſize. Some of them had white and red ſtripes traced on their body: I remarked one whoſe hair and noſe were powdered with a reddiſh earth, which appeared to me to be ochre; ſome wore bracelets woven of the fibres of the huſk of the cocoa-nut.

"Their frizly and very thick hair formed a great bulk, like that of ſeveral Papous, whom we met with in the ſequel.

"They are in the habit of plucking out the hair from every part of the body, and one only was ſeen on board the Eſpérance who ſuffered his beard to grow.

"They all had the abdomen tightened by a cord, which paſſed round it ſeveral times, and which ſeemed to be intended only to increaſe the muſcular ſtrength of that part of the body. One of the natives had, probably alſo with the ſame view, his left arm bound up in three different parts of the body of the biceps muſcle; ſome pieces of flat wood were placed on the external part of the ſame arm, for the purpoſe of ſupporting the effect of the cord.

"It appears that theſe ſavages are very dexterous in the uſe of the bow. One of them had brought on board the Eſpérance a booby which he had juſt killed with an arrow; in the belly of this bird was obſerved the hole of the arrow by which it had been pierced.

"Theſe iſlanders have particularly turned their induſtry towards the making of their weapons, which are wrought with great ſkill. We admired the art with which they had coated with roſin the ſtring of their bows, ſo that it might at firſt ſight have been taken for catgut; it was covered near the middle with the bark of rattan, in order that it might be leſs worn, in letting fly their arrows. The lower part of theſe arrows is very light, it being formed of the ſtalk of the *ſaccharum ſpontaneum*; the other half is made of a very hard wood well ſharpened; the point of junction is ſecured in a workmanlike manner, with about thirty turns of the filaments of the bark of rattan, as well as the lower part of the arrow, near the place that bears on the ſtring, in order to increaſe its ſolidity.

"Their canoes, which are made of ſeveral planks joined together with art, are of an elegant form, extremely well calculated for going faſt through the water." *Vol.* i. *p.* 239.

(To be continued.)

XLI.

XLI. *The View of India extra Gangem, China, and Japan.* By THOMAS PENNANT, Esq. Appendix, Indexes, and Map. Vol. III.—4to. pp. 279.

The View of the Malayan Isles, New Holland, and the Spicy Islands. By THOMAS PENNANT, Esq. Indexes and Map. Vol. IV. 4to. pp. 317. 1l. 16s. *White.* *

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EXTRACTS.

CITY OF MALACCA—THE JESUITS.

"THE Portuguese continued in possession of Malacca till the year 1641, when it was wrested out of their hands by the Dutch, after a six months siege. The governor is accused by historians of treachery, and to have been bribed into a surrender; but it is certain that he did not give the place up till after the most gallant defence. The Dutch, sensible of its value, paid the utmost attention to its fortifications, and to every thing that could revive the ancient commerce, which had almost sunk to nothing, by the tyranny and usual ill conduct of the Portuguese.

"The city had in their time several fine churches, and numbers of monasteries; and the Jesuits a noble college, in which they exercised great hospitality. All these of course fell to decay under the reign of the sons of Calvin. Sharp as they are, they were outwitted by the sons of Rome: the religious of the several convents made a request to the conqueror, that they might be permitted to quit their houses in solemn procession; each carried a large waxen taper in his hand, within which were concealed their diamonds, and all the lesser treasures. The victors were defrauded of the fruits of their valour, and, as Sonnerat says, their commander lost his head, on his return to Holland, for not having sagacity enough to discover the trick." *Vol.* iii. *p.* 27.

CITY OF JUTHIA—HISTORY OF PHAULKON.

"JUTHIA, or Judia, the capital of Siam, is seated in about lat. 14° 30′, on a low island in the form of a man's foot. It is surrounded with a lofty brick wall. The streets are straight, and accommodated with canals, which pass quite through from

* See an account of Vol. I. and II. in Monthly Epitome, Vol. II. p. 201.

eaſt to weſt. As Mr. Caverhill very reaſonably fixes the Zaba of Ptolemy to have been in the bottom of the bay of Siam, I ſee no reaſon againſt ſuppoſing that it might have been either at Juthia or at ſome place not remote from that port. Ships may enter into many of the canals, and diſcharge their cargo near the principal houſes. The greater part of the ſtreets are very mean, built with bamboo, covered with the leaves of palms. Thoſe of the Chineſe, Hindoos, and Moors, are of ſtone, but very low; the fineſt houſes in Kaempfer's time were ſuch which had been inhabited by the Engliſh, Dutch, and French. The palace of the unfortunate Phaulkon, miniſter of ſtate in the laſt century, makes the moſt conſpicuous figure; Phaulkon was a Grecian by birth, and ſeaman by profeſſion; he had ſerved various nations, but chiefly the Engliſh. In their ſervice, in capacity of a cockſwain, he came to Siam, and obtained an employment at court. He was a man of very fine natural abilities, and by his good conduct and his ſucceſs in the management of affairs, roſe to the higheſt dignities, and became prime miniſter to the reigning prince.

"His ambition proved his ruin, and brought him to a violent death by the hands of the executioner. He became ſo intoxicated with power as to entertain a deſign upon the throne, to depoſe his royal maſter, and to place over the Siameſe, Monpi Totſo, ſon-in-law to the monarch, a phantom of a king, who was to be dependent on his will, and to be depoſed as ſoon as affairs came to a criſis. The king was at that time extremely ill of a dropſy; on his deceaſe, the whole royal lineage was to be put to death, and Phaulkon uſurp the power.

"In order to accompliſh his deſigns, it was neceſſary to call in foreign aid; he perſuaded his weak maſter to ſend an embaſſy to Louis XIV. to requeſt his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty to ſend perſons qualified to inſtruct in the arts his unpoliſhed ſubjects, ſo that he might ſhine pre-eminent among the eaſtern nations. The firſt, who ſet out in 1680, were ſhipwrecked; the ſecond arrived ſafe in 1686. The vanity of Louis made him receive with every mark of reſpect theſe groteſque legates; the memory of their reception is preſerved in a medal*. The king is repreſented ſeated on his throne; the ambaſſadors making their obeiſance; above his Majeſty is inſcribed *Fama virtutis*, intimating that the fame of his high qualities had induced them to come from this diſtant country. Louis, in compliance with the wiſh of the embaſſy, ſent Jeſuits, artiſts, and military officers; General de Fargues landed with ſeveral hundred ſoldiers, and was put into poſſeſſion of Bankok, the key of the kingdom, ſeated on the river, between the capital and the ſea. Juſt as every thing was ready for execution, in May 1689, the plot was diſcovered; Monpi was ſeized by the king's ſon, and his head caſt at Phaulkon's feet. The miniſter, thus hurled from his greatneſs, was tortured and almoſt ſtarved to death, then carried out of town, and beheaded; his body cut in two, and covered with a little earth, was ſoon devoured by the dogs; a ſad proof how *ambitio male ſuada ruit.*"—*Vol.* iii. *p.* 43.

SIR JOHN MANDEVILLE.

"I SHALL now ſpeak of the celebrated Sir John Mandeville. Sir John was born at St. Albans, and became the greateſt traveller of his or any other age, having been out thirty-four years, and in the character of pilgrim, knight-errant, and man of obſervation, viſited the greateſt part of Africa and Aſia then known. It is probable that he penetrated as far as China. He left an account of his travels, which were ſhamefully falſified by the monks, who deſtroyed much of their credit, by mingling with them legendary tales, and ſtories out of Pliny; but ſtill truth appears ſo frequently, that the authenticity of the ground-work is by no means impaired. He was called *Johannes de Mandeville aliter dictus ad Barbam*, from his forked beard: he found a grave at Liege, in the convent of the Gulielmites, in 1371. He is engraven on his tomb armed, and treading on a lion. At his head, the hand of one bleſſing him; and theſe words in the French of the time, '*Vos ki paſeis ſor mi pour l'amour Deix proies por mi.*' His knives, horſe furniture, and ſpurs, were, in the time of Ortelius, pre-

* "Hiſtoire de Medailles, tab. ccxvi."

ſerved

ſerved at Liege by the monks, and ſhown to ſtrangers." *Vol.* iii. *p.* 112.

CHINESE DOGS.

"DOGS are a favourite food in China, and their fleſh is common in the ſhambles. When the butchers are dragging (as is cuſtomary) half a dozen to the ſlaughter-houſe, they are attacked by all the dogs within hearing of the cries of their fellows, ſo that they are obliged to have people to defend them with ſticks.

"The common people of China will eat any animal, even if they have died of ſickneſs, ſuch as dead horſes and dogs that they ſee floating down the canals. China is certainly the moſt plentiful, yet, from the vaſt ſuperabundance of the inhabitants, no people ſuffer ſuch miſery as the loweſt order; the produce of the earth frequently is inſufficient to ſupport ſuch multitudes; this, not want of affection, compels them to expoſe their infants to death. In China, children are eſteemed a peculiar bleſſing. In times of famine, or when the mothers fall ſick, or their milk fails, they expoſe them in the ſtreets, or leave them to be murdered by the midwives; ſuch horrid ſpectacles are frequent in the ſtreets of Peking and Canton." *Vol.* iii. *p.* 189.

TEA.

"THE tea cultivated in Japan is the *Bohea*, the *Tſjaa* of the Japaneſe, the *Theh* of the Chineſe. The origin of it has its legend equal to any in the univerſe. Darma, the ſon of an Indian king, who flouriſhed about the year 519 of the Chriſtian era, arrived in China to preach his doctrine to the inhabitants. It ſeems he was a ſort of pope in India, the twenty-eighth in ſucceſſion from the founder of eaſtern paganiſm. He had vowed the greateſt auſterities, particularly a perpetual watchfulneſs; nature, worn out, was obliged at length to ſubmit to the refreſhment of ſleep; on finiſhing his ſlumbers, he cut off both his eyebrows, which had dared to cloſe, and flinging them on the ground, each became a ſhrub; Darma ate ſome of the leaves, and, to his great ſurpriſe, found himſelf invigorated, ſo as to undergo any labours or any watchings: he communicated the virtues to his diſciples, and tea became of univerſal uſe. It is therefore ſtyled by ſome the eyebrows of Darma; he is repreſented as a a horrid ugly fellow, with vaſt eyebrows, wrapped in a great cloak, and ſtanding on a reed, on which he had been wafted from region to region.

"We may be certain from this tale, that the tea plant was aboriginal of China. It is cultivated by ſowing, not in whole fields, but round the borders in rows, ſo that it may not hurt the land: good farmers manure the plants with human ordure. In ſeven years time it grows to the height of a man; its few leaves at that time are gathered, the ſhrub cut down, and the moſt plentiful harveſt is obtained from the vigorous ſhoots of the ſucceeding years.

"The leaves are gathered by labourers, peculiarly brought up to the buſineſs; they muſt not be taken by handfuls, but pulled off one by one. The trees are not ſtripped entirely, for there are three gatherings in the year. The leaves are ſorted into three parcels; the fineſt, the ſmall, tender, primæval ſhoots, are reſerved for princes and great men, and on that account called imperial. They are next prepared by drying over the fire in an iron pan, and after that rolled with the palm of the hand on a mat, in order to fold them. Public laboratories are built for the purpoſe. All the proceſſes are given at large by Kaempfer*.

"Tea is in as univerſal uſe in Japan as in China, and taken two ways. The moſt common is ſimilar to the European, or rather the mode we learned from the Orientaliſts; but the manner of taking it is attended with the utmoſt ceremony. The art is called *Sado* and *Tſjanoi*. We have our dancing-maſters, &c.; and in my time Mr. Veſtris gave lectures to our quality on the manner of eating gracefully their ſoup. The Japaneſe maſters are to inſtruct in the manner of behaviour at tea, how they are to make it, and how they are to preſent it in a polite manner.

"The qualities of tea are as much diſputed in Japan as they are in Europe; but ſuch is the charming infatuation, that the uſe is ſtill followed,

* "See alſo Staunton's Embaſſy to China, vol. ii. p. 464."

in defiance of thoſe who take the ſide of depreciation in the old controverſy. Kaempfer gives us an excellent figure of the plant, in vol. ii. tab. 38, and of the proceſs of the tea-table, and all its apparatus, in tab. 39, and of the tea-cup; nor is the repreſentation of its great founder Darma forgotten, with his vaſt overhanging eyebrows."—*Vol.* iii. *p.* 215.

(To be continued.)

XLII. *Malone's Edition of the Works of John Dryden.* (Concluded from p. 175.)

CORRESPONDENCE—TO MR. JOHN DENNIS. *(Probably March* 1693-4.)

"IF I undertake the tranſlation of Virgil, the little which I can perform will ſhew, at leaſt, that no man is fit to write after him in a barbarous modern tongue. Neither will his machines be of any ſervice to a Chriſtian poet. We ſee how ineffectually they have been try'd by Taſſo and by Arioſto. 'Tis uſing them too dully, if we only make devils of his gods: as if, for example, I would raiſe a ſtorm, and make uſe of Æolus, with this only difference, of calling him prince of the air; what invention of mine would there be in this; or who would not ſee Virgil thorough me; only the ſame trick play'd over again by a bungling juggler? Boileau has well obſerved, that it is an eaſie matter in a Chriſtian poem for God to bring the devil to reaſon. I think I have given a better hint for new machines in my preface to Juvenal; where I have particularly recommended two ſubjects, one of King Arthur's conqueſt of the Saxons, and the other of the Black Prince in his conqueſt of Spain. But the guardian angels of monarchys and kingdoms are not to be touch'd by every hand: a man muſt be deeply converſant in the Platonick philoſophy, to deal with them; and therefore I may reaſonably expect that no poet of our age will preſume to handle thoſe machines, for fear of diſcovering his own ignorance; or if he ſhould, he might, perhaps, be ingrateful enough not to own me for his benefactour.

"After I have confeſs'd thus much of our modern heroick poetry, I cannot but conclude with Mr. Rymer, that our Engliſh comedy is far beyond any thing of the ancients: and notwithſtanding our irregularities, ſo is our tragedy *. Shakſpeare had a genius for it; and we know, in ſpite of Mr. Rymer, that genius alone is a greater virtue (if I may ſo call it) than all other qualifications put together. You ſee what ſucceſs this learned critick has found in the world, after his blaſpheming Shakſpeare †. Almoſt all the faults which he has diſcover'd are truly there; yet who will read Mr. Rymer, or not read Shakſpeare? For my own part I reverence Mr. Rymer's learning, but I deteſt his ill-nature and his arrogance. I, indeed, and ſuch as I, have reaſon to be afraid of him, but Shakſpeare has not.

"There is another part of poetry, in which the Engliſh ſtand almoſt upon an equal foot with the ancients; and it is that which we call Pindarique; introduced, but not perfected, by our famous Mr. Cowley: and of this, Sir, you are certainly one of the greateſt maſters. You have the ſublimity of ſenſe as well as ſound, and know how far the boldneſs of a poet may lawfully extend. I could wiſh you would cultivate this kind of ode; and reduce it either to the ſame meaſures which Pindar uſed, or give new meaſures of your own. For, as it is, it looks like a vaſt tract of land newly diſcover'd: the ſoil is wonderfully fruitful, but unmanur'd; overſtock'd with inhabitants, but almoſt all ſavages, without laws, arts, arms, or policy.

"I remember poor Nat. Lee, who was then upon the verge of madneſs, yet made a ſober and a witty anſwer to a bad poet, who told him, *It was an eaſie thing to write like a madman: No*, ſaid he, *it is very difficult to write like a madman, but it is a very eaſie matter to write like a fool.* Otway and he are ſafe by death from all attacks, but we poor poets militant (to uſe Mr. Cowley's expreſſion) are at the mercy of wretched ſcribblers: and when they

* "Our author has maintained the ſame opinion in the Dedication of the Third Miſcellany; and ſo, I have no doubt, Ariſtotle would have decided, had he lived in our time."

† "In his Short View of Tragedy, 8vo. 1693."

cannot

cannot faſten upon our verſes, they fall upon our morals, our principles of ſtate and religion. For my principles of religion, I will not juſtifie them to you: I know yours are far different. For the ſame reaſon I ſhall ſay nothing of my principles of ſtate. I believe you in yours follow the dictates of your reaſon, as I in mine do thoſe of my conſcience. If I thought myſelf in an errour, I would retract it. I am ſure that I ſuffer for them; and Milton makes even the devil ſay, that no creature is in love with pain. For my morals betwixt man and man, I am not to be my own judge. I appeal to the world, if I have deceiv'd or defrauded any man: and for my private converſation, they who ſee me every day can be the beſt witneſſes, whether or no it be blameleſs and inoffenſive. Hitherto I have no reaſon to complain that men of either party ſhun my company. I have never been an impudent beggar at the doors of noblemen: my viſits have indeed been too rare to be unacceptable; and but juſt enough to teſtifie my gratitude for their bounty, which I have frequently received, but always unaſked, as themſelves will witneſs.

"I have written more than I needed to you on this ſubject; for I dare ſay you juſtifie me to yourſelf. As for that which I firſt intended for the principal ſubject of this letter, which is my friend's paſſion and his deſign of marriage, on better conſideration I have chang'd my mind: for, having had the honour to ſee my dear friend Wycherly's letter to him on that occaſion, I find nothing to be added or amended. But as well as I love Mr. Wycherly, I confeſs I love myſelf ſo well, that I will not ſhew how much I am inferiour to him in wit and judgment, by undertaking any thing after him. There is Moſes and the Prophets in his council. Jupiter and Juno, as the poets tell us, made Tireſias their umpire in a certain merry diſpute, which fell out in heaven betwixt them. Tireſias, you know, had been of both ſexes, and therefore was a proper judge; our friend, Mr. Wycherly, is full as competent an arbitrator: he has been a bachelor, and marry'd man, and is now a widower. Virgil ſays of Ceneus,

——Nunc vir, nunc fœmina, Ceneus,
Rurſus et in veterem fato revoluta figuram.

Yet I ſuppoſe he will not give any large commendations to his middle ſtate: nor as the ſailer ſaid, will be fond after a ſhipwrack to put to ſea again. If my friend will adventure after this, I can but wiſh him a good wind, as being his, and,

"My dear Mr. Dennis,
"Your moſt affectionate
"And moſt faithful ſervant,
"JOHN DRYDEN."

Vol. i. *Part* ii. *p.* 33.

TO MR. JACOB TONSON.

October the 29th, [*f.* 1695.]

Mr. Tonſon,

"SOME kind of intercourſe muſt be carryed on betwixt us, while I am tranſlating Virgil. Therefore I give you notice, that I have done the ſeventh Eneid in the country*; and intend, ſome few days hence, to go upon the eight: when that is finiſh'd, I expect fifty pounds in good ſilver; not ſuch as I have had formerly. I am not oblig'd to take gold†, neither will I; nor ſtay for it beyond four and twenty houres after it is due. I thank you for the civility of your laſt letter in the country; but the thirty ſhillings upon every book remains with me. You always intended I ſhould get nothing by the ſecond ſubſcriptions, as I found from firſt to laſt. And your promiſe to Mr. Congreve, that you had found a way for my benefit, which was an encouragement to my paines, came at laſt for me to deſire Sir Godfrey Kneller and Mr. Cloſterman to gather for me. I then told Mr. Congreve, that I knew you too well to believe you meant me any kindneſs: and he promiſed me to believe accordingly of you, if you did not. But this is paſt; and you ſhall have your bargain, if I live and have my

* "At Burleigh, the ſeat of John, the fifth Earl of Exeter."

† "Both the gold and ſilver coin were at this time much depreciated; and remained in that ſtate till a new coinage took place, under the care of Charles Montague, then Chancellor of the Exchequer. It appears from a ſubſequent letter, that, before the new coinage, the value of a guinea was fluctuating and uncertain."

health.

health. You may ſend me word what you have done in my buſineſs with the Earl of Derby: and I muſt have a place for the Duke of Devonſhyre *. Some of your friends will be glad to take back their three guinneys †. The Counteſs of Macclesfield gave her money to Will Plowden before Chriſtmas; but he remember'd it not, and payd it not in. Mr. Aſton tells me, my Lord Derby expects but one book. I find, my Lord Cheſterfield and my Lord Petre are both left out; but my Lady Macclesfield muſt have a place ‡, if I can poſſibly: and Will Plowden ſhall pay you in three guinneys, if I can obtain ſo much favour from you. I deſire neither excuſes nor reaſons from you: for I am but too well ſatiſfy'd already. The notes and prefaces ſhall be ſhort; becauſe you ſhall get the more by ſaving paper.

" JOHN DRYDEN."

Vol. i. *Part* ii. *p.* 43.

LADY ELIZABETH DRYDEN TO HER SONS AT ROME §.

" MY dear ſons, I ſent your Letter emediately to your father, after I had read it, as you will find by his. I have not room to ſay much, having writ former Letters to you, datted the 27 of Auguſt, your father being then out of Town: he writes me word—he is much at woon as to his health, and his defneſe is not woſce, but much as he was when he was heare. He expreſſes a great deſire to ſee my dear Charlles: and trully I ſee noe reaſon why you ſhould not both come together, to be a comfort to woon another and to us both, if the King of France includ Ingland in the peace ‖; for you doe but Guſt make ſhift to live wheare you are, and ſoe I hope you may doe heare; for I will Leaf noe Ston unturn'd to help my belov'd ſonns. If I cane, I will ſend this Letter by the ſame way it came ¶; that is, it was brought me from woon Mr. Gallowway, who correſponds with Roſzie; I payd woon and Sixpence for it, and do offer to pay him what he demandes, ſo that he would take ceare the [packet] might come ſafe to your handes. I long tell I heare my deare Charlles is better. I have only room to tell you the names of the Merchantes your parcell went in: you are to demmand them of Mr. Robert Ball and Thommas Ball in Lindovino in Livorno. You are not to pay any charges for the Box, for the Port of London; if the have demanded any of you, ſend word to me what it is; for otherwayes wee ſhall pay twice for them; and this Mr. Walkeſon telles me, with his ſervice to you both. Farwell, my deare children: God Almighty keep you in his protection, for that is the wiſhes and prayers of your moſt affec: Mother, that ſends her bleſſinge to you all; not forgetting my Sonn Harry, whoſe prayers I deſire ** for a Comfortable Meetinge. I hope I may have ſome better thinges againſt you come, than what is ſent you in that box; there being nothing Conſidurabell but my deare Jackes play, who I deſire in his next to give me a true account how my deare Sonn Charlles is head dus; for I cane be at noe reſt tell I heare he is better, or rather thourely well, which I dally pray for ††." *Vol.* i. *Part* ii. *p.* 58.

TO

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* " Among the ſubſcribers to the plates, one of which the author wiſhed to be decorated with the duke's arms, and dedicated to him. The engraving prefixed to the third Æneid was inſcribed to the Earl of Derby; but the name of the Duke of Devonſhire does not appear in either the firſt or ſecond liſt of ſubſcribers."

† " On receiving back three guineas, they would be placed in the liſt of ſecond ſubſcribers."

‡ " The engraving prefixed to the twelfth Æneid is inſcribed to Philip Earl of Cheſterfield; but neither Lord Petre, nor Lady Macclesfield, *has a place*."

§ See the original letter of Dryden, to which this was ſubjoined, in Dr. Johnſon's Lives of the Poets, vol. ii. p. 211. 8vo. ed. 1783. ED.

‖ " The peace of Ryſwick, which was proclaimed at London in the following month, October 19, 1697, O. S."

¶ " She *means*, I ſuppoſe,—by the ſame way her ſon's letter came to her."

** " His father had alſo particularly deſired his ſon Harry's prayers. Perhaps he was at this time intended for holy orders, though he afterwards became an officer in the Pope's guards."

†† " The education of ladies was in general ſo much neglected in the laſt age,

TO MRS. STEWARD.

"*Candlemas Day*, 1698 [-9.]

"Madam,

"OLD men are not ſo inſenſible of beauty as it may be you young ladies think: for my own part, I muſt needs acknowledge that your fair eyes* had made me your ſlave before I receiv'd your fine preſents. Your letter puts me out of doubt that they have loſt nothing of their luſtre, becauſe it was written with your own hand; and not hearing of a ſeavour or an ague, I will pleaſe my ſelf with the thoughts that they have wholly left you. I wou'd alſo flatter my ſelf with the hopes of waiting on you at Cotterſtock ſome time next ſummer; but my want of health may perhaps hinder me. But if I am well enough to travell as farr northward as Northamptonſhyre, you are ſure of a gueſt, who has been too well us'd not to trouble you again.

"My ſonn, of whom you have done me the favour to inquire, mends of his indiſpoſition very ſlowly; the ayr of England not agreeing with him hetherto ſo well as that of Italy. The Bath is propos'd by the Doctours, both to him and me: but we have not yet reſolv'd abſolutely on that journey; for that city is ſo cloſs and ſo ill ſituated, that perhaps the ayr may do us more harm than the waters can do us good; for which reaſon we intend to try them heer firſt; and if we find not the good effect which is promis'd of them, we will ſave our ſelves the pains of going thether. In the mean time, betwixt my intervalls of phyſique and other remedies which I am uſeing for my gravell, I am ſtill drudging on: always a poet, and never a good one†. I paſs my time ſometimes with Ovid, and ſometimes with our old Engliſh poet Chaucer; tranſlateing ſuch ſtories as beſt pleaſe my fancy; and intend beſides them to add ſomewhat of my own: ſo that it is not impoſſible but ere the ſummer be paſs'd, I may come down to you with a volume in my hand, like a dog out of the water, with a duck in his mouth.—As for the rarities you promiſe, if beggars might be chooſers, a part of a chine of honeſt bacon wou'd pleaſe my appetite more than all the marrow puddings, for I like them better plain; having a very vulgar ſtomach.—My wife and your Couſin, Charles, give you their moſt humble ſervice, and thanks for your remembrance of them. I preſent my own to my worthy Couſin, your huſband, and am, with all reſpect,

"Madam,

"Your moſt obliged ſervant,

"JOHN DRYDEN."

Vol. i. *Part* ii. *p.* 73.

XLIII. *Turner's Embaſſy to the Court of the Teſhoo Lama.* (Continued from p. 167.)

FACULTY OF PROLONGING THE SOUND OF WIND INSTRUMENTS.

"WE met one of the Daeb Raja's brothers, a Gylong, riding on a Tangun horſe. He was preceded by many attendants, and among them was a man who played upon a ſort of hautboy, or reed inſtrument, which he blew, from the moment we came in ſight, till we had paſſed beyond the reach of the ſound, with a ſtrong and

age, that Lady Elizabeth Dryden's orthography, however ſtrange, was not ſingular. A former letter, however, written by her to Dr. Buſby, of which I have ſeen the original, is not disfigured by the odd ſpelling which we find here; but that letter was probably corrected by our author: when this was written, he was in the country."

* "Mrs. Steward was at this time but twenty-ſeven, and very handſome. Soon after the revolution, ſhe was eſteemed one of the fineſt women that appeared at Queen Mary's court."

† "Here, it is obſervable, our author ſpeaks of himſelf with that modeſty which was natural to him, and truly part of his character. It was only among the critics in coffee-houſes, or in his letters to his bookſeller, or when he was decried, and run down by his adverſaries, that he conſidered it neceſſary to keep up a proper port, and not to abate a jot of his poetical pretenſions. In thoſe caſes, he ſeems to have thought it fair to follow the example, and adopt the language, of Horace—*Sume ſuperbiam quæſitam meritis.* See vol. i. part i. p. 477."

continued

continued blaſt. Every man of rank, who moves from home upon occaſions of ceremony, is attended by a perſon of this deſcription, who, I am aſſured, blows his inſtrument from the time the chief mounts his horſe until he alights at the end of his journey, without any pauſe or intermiſſion in the ſound. The faculty of prolonging the ſound of a wind inſtrument to any period, is by no means rare among the natives of Bootan; nor does the operation appear to be performed with pain. I have heard them, and endeavoured to mark any variation of countenance for more than five minutes, without having been able to diſtinguiſh the leaſt degree of diſcompoſure.

"It has probably occurred to many who have reſided in India, and indeed I have myſelf heard a Brahmen ſound his chaunk * with little variation, but no ſenſible intermiſſion of ſound, for more than a quarter of an hour. This is ſufficiently explained, to my ſatisfaction, by the power of inhaling by the noſe and exhaling by the mouth at the ſame time; an operation, with a little practice, almoſt as certain as though theſe members were divided by a valve, the quantity of wind which the cheeks are capable of holding between them being ſufficient to keep up the vibration that produces ſound during the act of inſpiration."—*P.* 127.

THE BRIDGE OF WANDIPORE.

"THE bridge is compoſed entirely of fir, and has not the ſmalleſt piece of iron, or any other metal, to connect its parts. It has three gateways; one on each ſide the river, and another erected in the ſtream, upon a pier, which is pointed like a wedge towards the current, but is on the oppoſite ſide a little convex; below it, the eddy, produced by the reunion of the divided water, has thrown up a large bed of ſand, on which grows a large willow, that flouriſhes extremely. The gateway on the Taſſiſudon ſide is a lofty ſquare ſtone building, with projecting balconies near the top, bordered by a breaſt-work and pierced with a portcullis. The ſpan of the firſt bridge, which occupies two thirds of the breadth of the river, meaſures one hundred and twelve feet: it conſiſts of three parts, two ſides and a centre, nearly equal to each other; the ſides, having a conſiderable ſlope, raiſe the elevation of the centre platform, which is horizontal, ſome feet above the floor of the gateways. A quadruple row of timbers, their ends being ſet in the maſonry of the bank and pier, ſupports the ſides; the centre part is laid from one ſide to the other. The beams and planks are both of hewn fir; and they are pinned together by large wooden pegs. This is all the faſtening I could obſerve; it is ſecured by a neat light rail. The bridge, from the pier to the hill, is horizontal, and the beams reſt on the pier, and on a triple row of timbers let into the bank: it has a penthouſe over it, which is covered with ſhingles. The ſound ſtate of this bridge is a ſtriking inſtance of the durability of the turpentine fir; for, without the application of any compoſition in uſe for the preſervation of wood, it has ſtood expoſed to the changes of the ſeaſons for near a century and a half, as tradition goes, without exhibiting any ſymptoms of decay, or ſuffering any injury from the weather." *P.* 132.

THE NARRAINEE

"IS a baſe ſilver coin, ſtruck in Cooch Bahar, of the value of about tenpence, or one third of a Sicca rupee. The commodiouſneſs of this ſmall piece, the profits the people of Bootan derive from their commerce with Cooch Bahar, and ſome local prejudices againſt the eſtabliſhment of a mint, have given the narrainee in theſe regions, as well as in thoſe where it is ſtruck, a common currency, though both countries are perfectly independent of each other, and totally different in their language and manner. The name of the coin is derived from the Hindoo mythology; Narrain being no other than the favourite god Kriſhna, the Apollo of the Hindoos, the god of dance and muſic, of pleaſure and of ſport; who is complimented by his votaries all over India, by that cheerful feſtival the Hooli: a joyful ſeaſon, deſigned to celebrate the arrival of the vernal

* "The ſhell of a ſpecies of buccinum, uſed as a muſical inſtrument in their religious exerciſes."

vernal equinox; as the Duſſera, at the end of ſummer, is appropriate to the autumnal equinox.

"The feſtival of the Hooli takes place the firſt full moon after the ſun has paſſed the vernal equinox, and is calculated to hail the approach of ſpring. Its ceremonies conſiſt entirely of the moſt frolicſome and playful ſports; all rank and ages mix in its celebration; and, among other acts, during its continuance, caſt at each other handfuls of a pulverized ſcarlet flower, the jubba *(ixora Linnæi)*, and thin elaſtic balls, filled with a liquid coloured by the ſame plant; theſe burſt on the ſlighteſt reſiſtance, and cover the whole dreſs and perſon of him who is ſtruck by it with a crimſon ſtain. Nor is it deemed diſgraceful, on this occaſion, to carry the moſt obvious traces of the deepeſt dye; for when once the barrier of the Zennana * is broken down, the ſovereign himſelf ſets aſide his high deſpotic character, and unbends in frolicſome feſtivity. Unreſtrained liberty of ſpeech and repartee prevails; and the females of every family particularly delight in giving free indulgence to theſe romping ſports, which are equally kept up by the Mahometans and the Hindoos.

"I was once at Muttura, in Bindrabund, in Hindoſtan, at the ſeaſon in which this feſtival is held, the vicinity of which place is fabled to have been the ſcene of the deſcent of Kriſhna, whom by this commemoration they are diſpoſed to honour. Here, as the tradition goes, having diſcovered the nine Hoolis, diverting themſelves with muſic, ſongs, and merry frolics, without a ſingle male of their party, he moſt gallantly multiplied his form into an equal number, and joined hands with them to complete a dance. Thus, to the honour of Kriſhna, is it not forgotten how mightily he pleaſed the Hoolis, and how merrily the time paſſed; as is ſufficiently indicated even to this day, to thoſe who underſtand it, by their ſongs of joy, the Rugnee, and their chorus of Hooli, Hooli, Hooli †." *P.* 143.

MEDICAL GENIUS OF THE RAJA.

"THE verſatility of genius and ſpirit of inquiry which he (the Raja) poſſeſſed, had qualified him for the practice of phyſic, equally with any of the profeſſion in his own dominions; and he had a perfect knowledge of every medicinal preparation in uſe among them: yet he entertained a juſt opinion of our ſuperior ſkill; and, deſirous of profiting as much as poſſible by the opportunity, he ordered his chief phyſician to attend on Mr. Saunders, and avail himſelf of his inſtructions. The Raja willingly parted with ſpecimens of all his drugs, and gave an account of their reputed properties: in return, he received from Mr. Saunders whatever he could ſpare from his cheſt. The virtues of one medicine he put to the teſt while we were with him; this was ipecacuanha. Truſting to his own ideas of its power and effect, for the relief of ſome diſorder that he either felt or fancied himſelf affected by, he took, according to the directions he had received, a moderate doſe; yet, not chooſing to run the riſk alone, he obliged his doctor at the ſame time to try the experiment along with him. Ridiculous as it may ſeem, I am aſſured that this is no novel practice; for the Raja never takes any medicine, but his phyſician is indiſpenſably obliged to ſwallow a doſe of the ſame ſort.

"The ipecacuanha he had taken being rather tardy in its operation, he repeated the quantity, which ſoon acted moſt violently, and for the ſpace of two days kept him in perpetual agitation. The doctor, being a younger man, and of a ſtronger habit, was firſt relieved; but the Raja paid dear for his quackery: and when we ſaw him next was wofully ſick and weak." *P.* 153.

THE GREAT AUTUMNAL FESTIVAL OF THE HINDOOS.

"I UNDERSTOOD from Poorungheer that the feſtival which now occupied the attention of the Booteeas was the Durga Pooga, the great autumnal feſtival of the Hindoos.

"An effigy of Durga, in combat with the chief of the Raccuſſes, Soomne Soom, is exhibited during this period amidſt a moſt gaudy group of evil genii and auxiliary gods, forming a picture, in alto relievo, ſufficient to fill

* "Zennana, the apartments of the females."

† "A corruption of Holi, or Holika."

the breadth of a large ſaloon, as ſhowy as brilliant colours and tinſel ornaments can make it. This effigy is removed on the laſt day at noon, and conveyed in proceſſion to the Ganges, where Durga and her aſſociates are committed all together to the deep. During this latter part of the feſtival, which is generally known in Calcutta by the appellation of the Nautches, the houſes of the moſt opulent Hindoos are open to European viſitors, and conſtantly attract a prodigious concourſe of company.

"This feſtival, which is one of the moſt famous among the Hindoos, gives occaſion alſo in Bootan to a great diſplay of ingenuity. The repreſentation is continued from the commencement to the cloſe of the feſtival, which laſts, in the whole, ten days. It is here termed Mullaum. I was preſent only at the commencement of it, during the three firſt days, and, I am ſorry to ſay, was too ignorant of their mythology, to underſtand thoroughly the meaning of the maſque. The great court-yard of the palace was the ſcene of repreſentation. The Daeb Raja, with all the Gylongs, ſat very gravely in the ſurrounding colonnade looking on. He politely provided us with ſeats near himſelf.

"The groteſque figures that exhibited themſelves in the combat formed altogether the moſt fantaſtic motley group it is poſſible to imagine: elephants, horſes, apes, and a moſt frightful figure environed with ſnakes, were among the repreſentations intended to perſonate racuſſes, or evil genii. Virtue appeared in the ſhape of Durga, with a view to exterminate vice; and ſome of the group received pretty hard blows before they would quit the ſtage; but the force of Durga, as it was intended, never failed to maintain its ground in all the triumph of victory.

"The object of this feſtival was, as I conceived, to celebrate the arrival of the autumnal, as that of the Hooli does the vernal equinox.

"Durga poojah is diſtinguiſhed alſo as being the well-known period when the armies of the native powers in India have always been accuſtomed to take the field; and, till their acquaintance with Europeans taught them the neceſſity of relinquiſhing ſome of their moſt inveterate prejudices, it was very ſeldom that any of their troops aſſembled in the field, till after the celebration of the Duſſera, which happens on the firſt full moon after the equinox. As that has been ever conſidered as the ſignal for hoſtile preparation, ſo has the Dewali, the following new moon, a feſtival kept in honour of the dead, when it is uſual to make large feaſts, to diſtribute food to the poor, and to make grand illuminations during the night, been commonly the time to ſet their troops in motion." *P.* 162.

(To be continued.)

XLIV. *Conſiderations on Milton's early Reading, and the prima Stamina of his Paradiſe Loſt*; together with Extracts from a Poet of the ſixteenth Century: in a Letter to William Falconer, M. D. from CHARLES DUNSTER, M. A. Sm. 8vo. pp. 249. 5s. *Nichols, Evans.*

EXTRACTS.

"THE folio edition of Sylveſter's Du Bartas was publiſhed in 1621; when Milton was juſt at the age of thirteen. It was accompanied with highly encomiaſtic teſtimonials of its merit from the *Laudati Viri* of the times; as Ben Jonſon, Daniel, Davis of Hereford, Hull afterwards Biſhop of Exeter, Vicars, and others. I would ſuppoſe that Milton, who was an early* and paſſionate reader, became acquainted with this edition of Sylveſter's Du Bartas on its firſt publication; and that he then peruſed it with the *avidity* of a young poetical mind; hence, perhaps,

Smit with the love of SACRED SONG.

I am not, indeed, without an opinion, that the true *origin* of Paradiſe Loſt is, in this reſpect, to be traced primarily to Sylveſter's Du Bartas; and I would preciſely reverſe Dr. Farmer's obſervation, by ſuppoſing, that 'this 'led to Milton's great poem;' not only by awakening his paſſion for ſacred poeſy, but by abſolutely furniſhing

* "Milton tells us himſelf, that from his twelfth year he was ſo paſſionately fond of reading, as hardly ever to retire from his books to bed before midnight; which laid the foundation of his blindneſs."

what

what Dr. Johnſon, in his preface to Lauder's pamphlet, terms the *prima ſtamina* of Paradiſe Loſt. This idea occurred to me, before I had obſerved by whom the book in queſtion was printed. And it certainly corroborated it, when I found it recorded, at the end of the book, to have been '*printed by Humfrey Lownes, dwelling 'on Bread-ſtreet-hill.*' At this time Milton was actually living with his father in Bread-ſtreet; and it is very poſſible that his early love of books made him a frequent viſitor to his neighbour the printer, who, from his addreſs to the reader, appears to have been a man of a poetical taſte; and who, as ſuch, was probably much ſtruck with our young poet's early attention to books, and his other indications of genius.

"I have never ſeen Du Bartas's poems in their original French. They have been much condemned by ſome critics; and it has been ſaid 'on ne 'trouve dans ſes ouvrages ni inven-'tion ni genie poetique.' The ſtyle of them has alſo been cenſured as *ampoulé*. By others they have been as much applauded and approved. It is probable that Milton, before he wrote his great poem, had ſeen them in the original; but this is a very immaterial conſideration. To the Engliſh Du Bartas we certainly *muſt* trace him, in ſome of his earlieſt poetry, as well as in his lateſt.

"The Engliſh Du Bartas reads with a high ſpirit of originality *; and I am fully perſuaded, that it ſtrongly caught the willing attention of the young poet.

"Nothing can be farther from my intention than to inſinuate that Milton was a plagiariſt, or ſervile imitator; but I conceive, that, having read theſe ſacred poems of very high merit, at the immediate age when his own mind was juſt beginning to teem with poetry, he retained numberleſs thoughts, paſſages, and expreſſions therein, ſo deeply in his mind, that they hung inherently on his imagination, and became, as it were, naturalized there. Hence many of them were afterwards inſenſibly transfuſed into his own compoſitions.—In common converſation we, imperceptibly to ourſelves, adopt the particular phraſeology or tone of voice of thoſe perſons whom we peculiarly admire; and we frequently catch their characteriſtic manners, without meaning in any reſpect to copy them, or being at all aware of any obſervable reſemblance between us.—From Milton's frequent adoption of Sylveſter's language, I ſimilarly infer his having been *much converſant* with it, and his earneſt admiration of his poetry.

"Du Bartas's principal poem, intitled *Days and Weeks*, was well calculated, both from its *plan* and *execution*, to attach the attention of Milton.—Having for its argument the moſt weighty and intereſting ſubjects of ſcripture hiſtory;—commencing with the Creation and the Fall; proceeding, as the poet marks his plan, through the types of the Law and Jewiſh Hiſtory, to the completion of them in Meſſias;—and meaning (had he lived to complete his ſubject) to have wound up all in the eternal happineſs of the Heavenly Sabbath;—decorated and enriched with every ornament of claſſic literature and ſcientific knowledge, not without collateral aid from the Gothic ages and legendary tales;—how could it fail to ſtrike a young mind, ardently diſpoſed to learning, poetry, and devotion?

"The verſification of our tranſlator, Joſhua Sylveſter, has in it, it muſt be confeſſed, numerous highly obſolete and vulgariſed expreſſions; frequent diſcordant and diſguſting rhymes; and, very often, a moſt offenſive jingle of adjunct rhyming, or ſimilarly ſound-

* "Ben Jonſon indeed, in a general cenſure of the poets of his time (recorded from his converſation by Drummond of Hawthornden), ſays, 'Sylveſ-'ter's tranſlation of Du Bartas was not well done; but he wrote his verſes, 'before he underſtood to confer.' By which we may underſtand Jonſon cenſuring the *exactneſs* of the tranſlation: which he muſt have done on the report of others, as his verſes confeſs that he did not underſtand the original. The poetry of Sylveſter (which is my object) ſtands unimpeached.

"Drummond himſelf commends Sylveſter's tranſlation of Du Bartas's *Judith* as excellent, and ſpeaks of 'his happy tranſlations in ſundry places equal-'ling the original.' Drummond is great authority; eſpecially for that age.—The *works of Drummond* were publiſhed in 1656, with a preface by Edward Phillips the nephew of Milton."

ing words. It has alſo ſome paſſages ſo highly bombaſtic as to be moſt completely ludicrous. In ſpite of all this, his language is at times admirably condenſed, and it abounds in paſſages which, I conceive, cannot but reclaim our moſt unbounded admiration; and which, I firmly believe, made a forcible appeal to the finely-tuned ear of Milton.

"The earlieſt pieces of poetical compoſition, publiſhed by the author of Paradiſe Loſt, are his verſification of the 114th and 136th Pſalms, written when he was only fifteen; in which Mr. Warton has pointed out ſeveral *foreſhowings* of future poetical eminence. The archetypes of ſeveral of theſe (or at leaſt ſomething that materially contributed towards them) I fancied that I found in Sylveſter's Du Bartas; the folio edition of which had been publiſhed by Humfrey Lownes, only two years before. This induced me to make the experiment, how far I could trace Milton, in theſe and ſome others of his early poems, to the publication of his neighbour." *P.* 5.

"Pſalm 114.

"9. *Jordan's clear ſtreams*—]

"The river Jordan is ſimilarly characteriſed by Sylveſter; where this is a reſemblance alſo to the preceding verſe of Milton's Pſalm:

"Clear Jordan's ſelf, in his dry ozier bed,
Bluſhing for ſhame, was fain TO HIDE HIS HEAD."

Sylveſter's Du Bartas, fol. 1621, p. 954.

"14. *Why turned Jordan tow'rd his cryſtal fountain?*]

"And tow'rd the cryſtal of his double ſource
Compelled Jordan to retreat his courſe." *P.* 49.

"Pſalm 136.

"29. —— *the golden-treſſed ſun*]

"Mr. Warton particularly notices this expreſſion as highly poetical. I cannot avoid referring it to Sylveſter's Du Bartas; where the ſun is not only deſcribed

"With golden treſſes and attractive grace"— *P.* 85.

but it is alſo ſaid,

"Scarce did the glorious Governor of day
O'er Memphis yet his golden treſs diſplay." *P.* 360.

"33. *The horned moon to ſhine by night.*]

"The moon is ſeveral times termed by Sylveſter, 'Night's horned queen;'

"— Under night's horned queen." *P.* 40.

"—— how ſea doth ebb and flow,
As th' horned queen doth either ſhrink or grow." *P.* 82.

"41. *And in deſpight of Pharaoh fell,*
He brought from thence his Iſrael.]

"So Iſrael, fearing again to feel
Pharaoh's fell hands, who hunts him at the heel." *P.* 361.

"The Miltonic rhyme occurs in the following lines:

"And finally doth puniſh tyrants fell
With their own ſwords, to ſave his Iſrael." *P.* 478.

——— "what tempeſt fell
Beats on the head of harmleſs Iſrael!" *P.* 438.

"45. *The ruddy waves he cleft in twaine,*
Of the Erythrean main.]

"His dreadful voice to ſave his ancient ſheep
Did cleave the bottom of th' Erythrean deep." *P.* 48.

"——— along the ſandy ſhore,
Where the Erythrean ruddy billows roar." *P.* 967.

"In 1625 Milton wrote his little poem ON THE DEATH OF A FAIR INFANT, which opens beautifully:

"O faireſt flower, no ſooner blown but blaſted!
Sweet ſilken primroſe, fading timeleſsly!
Summer's chief honour, if thou hadſt outlaſted
Bleak winter's force———

"Amongſt Sylveſter's Poſthumi is an Elegy on DAME HELEN BRANCH, which thus laments her children, who died young:

"But all theſe joys, alas! but little laſted,
All theſe fair bloſſoms were untimely blaſted." P. 17.

XLV. *Garnett's Tour through the Highlands of Scotland.* (Concluded from p. 180.)

INVERNESS—SCOTCH ACADEMIES.

"I CANNOT avoid obſerving here, that the inhabitants of North Britain have much juſter and more liberal ideas of education than my countrymen;

men; and I cannot but expreſs a wiſh, that many of the large ſchools in England, which are ſo nobly endowed, but in which the dead languages only are taught, were modelled according to the plan of the Scotch academies and univerſities. At the time of the foundation of theſe ſchools, theſe languages were deſervedly in repute; they were the keys which unlocked the learned lore of antiquity.

"After the dark gloom, which was ſpread over Europe by the Goths, and which extinguiſhed every ray of ſcience, had begun to diſpel, numbers of the works of the Greeks and Romans were diſcovered, which were reſcued from the general wreck; theſe were revered, as containing all the knowledge extant. The invention of printing, ſoon afterwards, ſpread theſe treaſures of antiquity over the world; and for ages, the philoſophy of Ariſtotle was the ſtandard, from which there was no appeal: to acquire this knowledge therefore, it was neceſſary to learn theſe languages. But our knowledge on almoſt every ſubject, and particularly of the ſciences, is now infinitely ſuperior to that of the ancients, and the beſt of their works have been tranſlated into the modern languages. Hence there is now little neceſſity for learning the languages of antiquity, which are to be conſidered more as ornamental than uſeful. Is it not therefore better that the abilities of youth ſhould be exerciſed in gaining a knowledge of things, inſtead of ſounds? Inſtead of tormenting the young mind during that period when a ſtore of uſeful knowledge might be laid in, with ſtudying Latin and Greek for ſeven years, would it not be infinitely to their advantage to inſtruct them in hiſtory, geography, mathematics, mechanics, and other branches of experimental philoſophy; particularly chemiſtry, which is a ſcience of ſuch importance, that there are few ſituations in life which would not be benefited by a knowledge of it? To the farmer it is as neceſſary as to the apothecary or the dyer. It is a ſcience by no means difficult to learn, and were the principles of it early inſtilled into the mind, they would pave the way to diſcoveries perhaps of greater utility than any that have been yet made. Would it not likewiſe be of the utmoſt conſequence to thoſe intended for the different mechanic arts, to be inſtructed in the principles of mechanics? Without theſe principles, they can never make any material improvements: they may indeed ſtumble on diſcoveries, but can never inveſtigate them from true principles.

"If languages are to be learned, let them be the modern languages, as French, German, and Italian, in which uſeful works are written, and buſineſs tranſacted. I would not however diſcard the ancient languages from the ſchools, but conſider them, as is done at Inverneſs and the Scotch univerſities in general, rather as acceſſories, than the principal object of education. To thoſe who exercile the learned profeſſions, they are neceſſary, becauſe the ſciences of law and medicine contain a number of technical terms derived immediately from thoſe languages. Liberal and enlightened men are however now employed in ſtripping from them the ſcholaſtic jargon, which has concealed their beauties from the general eye for ſo many centuries. To the divine, theſe languages, and particularly the Greek and Hebrew, ought always to be familiar, it being very ſatisfactory, as well as neceſſary, to conſult the ſacred ſources of revelation in their purity, unadulterated by the ignorance of tranſlators, or the interpolations of the crafty or bigoted; but if medicine and law were ſtripped of the terms which now diſgrace them, and the ſtudent, inſtead of ſpending the beſt of his time in learning the dead languages, ſhould make a proficiency in the modern; and for medicine particularly, lay a good foundation of mathematics, natural hiſtory, and natural philoſophy, he would ſoon acquire a greater and more accurate knowledge of his profeſſion than is generally done. A liberal and enterpriſing ſpirit has long ſhown itſelf in Inverneſs; and the good effects of this academy on the next generation will be very evident." *Vol.* ii. *p.* 5.

REMAINS OF LADY KILSYTH.

"WHILE we were reſting ourſelves for a few days at Glaſgow, after the fatigue of our journey, before we proceeded to the falls of the Clyde, we received an invitation from the Reverend Mr. Rennie, miniſter of Kilſyth, to viſit that place, in order to

to ſee a curious mummy which had been diſcovered in a vault under the church, near a year before. This place is about fourteen miles diſtant from Glaſgow. The vault had been cloſed up, but Mr. Rennie had the goodneſs to order an opening to be made, through which we deſcended with difficulty, but were amply repaid for our trouble, for, though the body was by no means in that high ſtate of preſervation that it was when firſt diſcovered, having received ſome injury from the air, and ſtill more from the ſacrilegious hands which had torn away part of the ſhroud, ſtill it was wonderfully perfect. Mr. Watts took a drawing of it, which he afterwards corrected under the eye of Mr. Rennie, ſo as to make it exactly reſemble the appearance of the body when firſt diſcovered.

"Mr. Rennie politely offered to draw up a particular account of the circumſtances attending this mummy, which I afterwards received from him, and which I ſhall inſert in his own words.

" 'There is an arched vault, or 'burying-ground, under the church 'of Kilſyth, which ſeems to have 'been the burial-place of the family 'of Kilſyth for many generations.

" 'As the eſtate was forfeited, and 'the title became extinct in the year '1715, it has never been uſed for that 'purpoſe ſince that period. The Earl 'fled with his lady and family to Flan-'ders, and though he returned more 'than once *incog.* in the habit of a 'common beggar, and as ſuch lodged 'with ſeveral of his tenants, yet it is 'certain he was not buried at Kilſyth.

" 'The tradition is, and it is ſaid to 'be confirmed by ſome papers and let-'ters lately found, that he, and a 'number of the unfortunate nobleſſe, 'who had been concerned in the rebel-'lion, were either murdered, or killed 'by a certain accident in Holland, 'about the year 1717.

" 'At all events it ſeems certain, 'that his lady, with her infant ſon, 'were ſmothered by the falling in of 'the roof of the room, in which a 'number of the nobility who had been 'concerned in the rebellion were aſ-'ſembled. It is generally ſaid and 'believed, that this was not by acci-'dent, but deſign: that the landlord 'and ſome of his accomplices had cut 'the beams which ſupported the roof, 'and that upon a ſignal being given, 'he let it fall in with a view to ſmother 'the whole company. It appears that 'very few eſcaped, and I never heard 'it doubted or denied that Lady Kilſyth 'and her infant periſhed in the ruins. 'Indeed the wound ſhe received on the 'right temple is ſtill viſible, and when 'the body was firſt diſcovered, it was 'covered with a black patch, about 'the ſize of a crown piece. There is 'no mark of violence on her ſon. He 'ſeems to have been ſmothered, as it 'is generally ſaid, ſitting on the knee 'of his mother at table.

" 'Her body was embowelled and 'embalmed, and ſoon afterwards ſent 'over to Scotland. It was landed and 'lay at Leith for ſome time in a cel-'lar, and was afterwards carried to 'Kilſyth, and buried in great pomp, 'according to the form of the church 'of England. It is not twenty years 'ſince ſome of the inhabitants of this 'pariſh died, who were in their youth 'eye-witneſſes of the funeral.'

" 'The body was encloſed, firſt in 'a coffin of fir, next in a leaden cof-'fin, nicely cemented, but without 'any inſcription; this was again co-'vered with a very ſtrong wooden 'coffin. The ſpace between the two 'was filled up with a white matter, 'ſomewhat of the colour and conſiſt-'ence of putty, apparently compoſed 'of gums and perfumes, for it had a 'rich and delicious flavour. When I 'was a boy at ſchool, I have frequently 'ſeen the coffin in which ſhe lies, for 'the vault was then always acceſſible, 'and often opened: but at that time 'the wooden coffin was entire. Indeed 'it was only within a few years that it 'decayed. Even after this, the lead 'one remained entire for a conſider-'able time; but being very brittle and 'thin, it alſo began to moulder away: 'a ſlight touch of the finger penetrated 'any part of it. In the apertures thus 'made, nothing was ſeen but the gum-'my matter above mentioned. When 'this was partly removed, which was 'eaſily done, being very ſoft, and only 'about an inch in thickneſs, another 'wooden coffin appeared, which ſeem-'ed quite clean and freſh.

" 'But no one ever thought of 'opening it, till the ſpring 1796, when 'ſome rude regardleſs young men went 'to viſit the tomb, and with ſacrile-'gious hands tore open the leaden cof-'fin. To their ſurpriſe, they found 'under

'under the lead a covering of fir, as 'clean and freſh as if it had been made 'the day before. The cover of this 'being looſe, was eaſily removed. 'With aſtoniſhment and conſternation 'they ſaw the body of Lady Kilſyth, 'and her child, as perfect as the hour 'they were entombed.

" 'For ſome weeks this circum-'ſtance was kept ſecret, but at laſt it 'began to be whiſpered in ſeveral com-'panies, and ſoon excited great and 'general curioſity. On the 12th of 'June, while I was from home, great 'crowds aſſembled, and would not be 'denied admiſſion. At all hours of 'the night as well as the day, they af-'terwards perſiſted in gratifying their 'curioſity.

" 'I ſaw the body ſoon after the 'coffin was opened. It was quite en-'tire. Every feature and every limb 'was as full, nay the very ſhroud was 'as clear and freſh, and the colours of 'the ribands as bright as the day they 'were lodged in the tomb.

" 'What rendered this ſcene more 'ſtriking, and truly intereſting, was, 'that the body of her ſon and only 'child, the natural heir of the title and 'eſtates of Kilſyth, lay at her knee. 'His features were as compoſed as if 'he had been only aſleep. His colour 'was as freſh, and his fleſh as plump 'and full, as in the perfect glow of 'health; the ſmile of infancy and in-'nocence ſat on his lips. His ſhroud 'was not only entire, but perfectly 'clean, without a particle of duſt upon 'it. He ſeems to have been only a 'few months old.

" 'The body of Lady Kilſyth was 'equally well preſerved, and at a lit-'tle diſtance, with the feeble light of 'a taper, it would not have been eaſy 'to diſtinguiſh whether ſhe was dead 'or alive. The features, nay the very 'expreſſion of her countenance, were 'marked and diſtinct, and it was only 'in a certain light that you could diſ-'tinguiſh any thing like the ghaſtly and 'agonizing traits of a violent death. 'Not a ſingle fold of her ſhroud was 'diſcompoſed, nor a ſingle member 'impaired.

" 'But no deſcription can give a 'juſt or adequate idea of the neatneſs 'or elegance of her appearance. I 'therefore refer to the ſketch taken by 'your friend. I have only to lament 'that his repreſentation was finiſhed 'chiefly from my deſcription, as at the 'time you ſaw the body it was much 'ſullied, and the ſhroud injured: but 'it is as near the original as I can re-'collect, or as any pencil can expreſs. 'I can only ſay it is not a flattering 'portrait.

" 'Let the candid reader ſurvey 'this ſketch; let him recall to mind 'the tragic tale that it unfolds, and 'ſay, if he can, that it does not arreſt 'the attention, and intereſt the heart. 'For my part, it excited in my mind a 'thouſand melancholy reflections, and 'I could not but regret that ſuch rude-'neſs had been offered to the aſhes of 'the dead, as to expoſe them thus to 'the public view.

" 'The body ſeemed to have been 'preſerved in ſome liquid, nearly of 'the colour and appearance of brandy: 'the whole coffin ſeems to have been 'full of it, and all its contents ſatu-'rated with it. The body had aſſumed 'ſomewhat the ſame tinge, but this 'ſerved only to give it a freſher look; 'it had none of the ghaſtly livid hue 'of death, but rather a copper com-'plexion.

" 'It would, I believe, have been 'difficult for a chemiſt to aſcertain the 'nature of this liquid; though per-'fectly tranſparent, it had loſt all its 'pungent qualities, its taſte being quite 'vapid. I have heard, however, that 'ſeveral medical gentlemen carried off 'ſmall phials full of it, but do not 'know whether they made any expe-'riments with it. The rich odoriſe-'rous flavour continued not only in 'the vault, but even in the church, 'for many weeks, as can be atteſted 'by many hundreds; all agreed that 'it was a mixture of perfumes, but of 'what kind it was not eaſy to ſay: the 'moſt prevalent ſeemed to me to be 'that of ſpirit of turpentine, and it is 'certain that this odour continued the 'longeſt.

" 'The head reclined on a pillow, 'and as the covering decayed, it was 'found to contain a collection of ſtrong 'ſcented herbs. Balm, ſage, and 'mint, were eaſily diſtinguiſhed, and 'it was the opinion of many that the 'body was filled with the ſame.

" 'Although the bodies were thus 'entire at firſt, I confeſs I expected to 'ſee them ſoon crumble into duſt; eſ-'pecially as they were expoſed to the 'open air, and the fine aromatic fluid 'had evaporated; and it ſeems ſur-'priſing that they did not. For ſe-

'veral

'veral weeks they underwent no visible change, and had they not been 'sullied with dust, and the drops of 'grease from the candles held over 'them, I am confident they might 'have remained as entire as ever; for 'even a few months ago, the bodies 'were as firm and compact as at first, 'and though pressed with the finger 'did not yield to the touch, but seemed to retain the elasticity of the living body. Even the shroud, though 'torn by the rude hands of the regardless multitude, is still strong, and free 'from rot.

" 'Perhaps the most singular phenomenon is, that the bodies seem not 'to have undergone the smallest decomposition, or disorganization. Several medical gentlemen (I think you 'did so yourself) have made a small 'incision into the arm of the infant; 'the substance of the body was quite 'firm, and every part in its original 'state.

" 'Lady Kilsyth was of the family 'of Dundonald; this appears from 'Crausurd's Peerage, and other undoubted authority. She is there 'called Jean, daughter of Lord William Cochrane, son and heir of William Earl of Dundonald.

" 'It is equally certain that she was 'first married to the Viscount Dundee, 'and even after she married her second husband, she still retained this 'title; for he was then the heir apparent only of the title and estates of 'Kilsyth, and of course till the death 'of his father she was not called Lady 'Kilsyth.

" 'There was a singular circumstance attending this connexion. She 'had come on a visit to Colzium, the 'seat of the family of Kilsyth, about 'a year after the battle of Killicranky, 'in which her husband the Viscount 'Dundee fell. At that time it was 'said that William Livingston (afterwards Viscount Kilsyth, and her 'husband) first paid his addresses to 'her. As a pledge of his love, he 'presented her with a ring; but as ill 'luck would have it, she dropped it 'next day in the garden. To lose a 'ring in such circumstances, and so 'soon, was no doubt regarded as an 'evil omen; a liberal reward was 'therefore offered to any person who 'should find and restore it; but in vain; 'it could not be found; and till the 'year 1796, nearly a century after, was 'never heard of.

" 'At that time, however, the tenant of the garden, when digging 'potatoes, discovered it in a clod of 'earth. At first he regarded it as a 'bauble, but the moment the legend 'became apparent, the tradition came 'fresh into his recollection, and he 'instantly supposed it to be the ring of 'Lady Kilsyth.

" 'It is of gold, and about the 'value of ten shillings; about the 'breadth of a straw, and without any 'stone. The external surface is ornamented with a wreath of myrtle, and 'on the internal surface is the following legend, *Yours only & Euer.* This 'ring is, I believe, in the possession of 'Sir Archibald Edmonston, of Duntreath, the proprietor of the Kilsyth 'estates.'

" To this account given by Mr. Rennie, I can only express my regret, that this body, which had been so admirably preserved, should be wantonly destroyed or damaged. Had it been enclosed in a glass case, when discovered, it would in all probability have remained for centuries in the same state." *P.* 206.

GOLD FOUND ABOUT LEAD HILLS.

" PIECES of gold have frequently been found about lead hills, in the gravel beneath the peat: small grains of this metal are likewise found among the sand in the rivulets of this neighbourhood, and in the Clyde, particularly between this place and Elvan Foot.

" Mackenzie, in his Life of Boethius, says, 'that James IV. having got experienced workmen well skilled in 'mines, they had so good success, that 'when James V. went over to France, 'at a sumptuous entertainment after 'his marriage, for a dessert, instead of 'sweetmeats, he presented many plates 'filled with gold coined in Scotland, 'and dug out of the mines on Crausurd moor, which were distributed 'among the company.' Some German adventurers were, on stipulated conditions, permitted to explore these parts in quest of gold; they employed about three hundred men for several summers, and procured metal to the value of about 100,000*l.* sterling, the greatest part of which they carried to Germany. These adventurers probably exhausted what was near the surface, and since that time no farther researches have been made." *P.* 238.

GEORGE BUCHANNAN.

"WHEN we take a view of Buchannan as a hiſtorian, it may be proper to obſerve, that no hiſtory will ever be valuable for the compoſition, that does not exhibit either philoſophic views of human nature, or beautiful pictures of intereſting events. In both characters the merit of Buchannan is conſpicuous. The outlines, for inſtance, of the excellent Treatiſes concerning Crimes and Puniſhments, are contained in Buchannan's ſhort remarks upon the tortures that were inflicted upon the murderers of James the Firſt. And his account of the taking of Dumbarton Caſtle by Craufurd, is a more ſtriking picture of an intereſting event, than any that has ſince been made of it by very able writers. His Hiſtory has been much read and admired by foreigners *, as well as by his own countrymen.

"It muſt be acknowledged, that there are ſome things in his Hiſtory which are inaccurate, and others which are falſe; but before he be condemned for them, the following circumſtances ought to be conſidered: Firſt, his inaccuracies have been diſcovered in conſequence of examining evidence to which he had not acceſs. Second, in his ancient hiſtory he followed what he thought to be the beſt accounts of other writers, and only gave them a claſſic dreſs. The modern cry, therefore, that the Ancient Hiſtory of Scotland is fabulous, can never be a juſt charge againſt him; for if he had not related what was handed down to him, or if he had been a ſceptic without the evidence of records, he would not have been a hiſtorian, but a writer of romance. Thirdly, the rage of civil and religious party was ſo violent in his own time, that it was often impoſſible to know the truth; and yet his general account of diſputed events appears, to the moſt candid and beſt informed in modern times, to be well founded. If he had not the means of knowing the truth exactly, we may lament his ſituation, but cannot blame his integrity, or ceaſe to admire the purity, the vigour, and the elegance of his ſtyle.

"Upon the whole, after making every juſt allowance for the ſhades in Buchannan's character, he muſt be conſidered, by every impartial reader, as one of the moſt illuſtrious perſons which this iſland has produced; and there is hardly, perhaps, another nation that can give an example of the powers of writing proſe and verſe, united in the ſame man, in ſo diſtinguiſhed a manner ‡." *Vol.* ii. *p.* 270.

XLVI. *Literary Hours; or, Sketches Critical and Narrative.* By NATHANIEL DRAKE, M.D. Second Edition, corrected and greatly enlarged. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. 934. 14s. Sudbury printed: *Cadell and Davies*, London.

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* "'The ſtyle,' ſays Le Clerc, 'is beautiful and pure; and he appears 'every where to ſpeak the truth as far as it was known to him. His judgment 'of things is ſound; he cenſures freely what deſerves it, and commends what 'he thought worthy of praiſe. He unites the brevity of Salluſt with the ele-'gance and perſpicuity of Livy. But he is not ſufficiently exact in his dates, 'and does not cite his authorities'."

"Thuanus ſays of him, 'That though Buchannan, according to the ge-'nius of his nation, ſometimes inveighs againſt crowned heads with ſeverity, 'yet that his Hiſtory is written with ſo much purity, ſpirit, and judgment, that 'it does not appear to be the production of a man who had paſſed his days in 'the duſt of a ſchool, but of one who had been always converſant in the moſt 'important affairs of ſtate. Such,' ſays he, 'was the greatneſs of his mind, 'and the felicity of his genius, that the meanneſs of his fortune did not hinder 'him from forming juſt ſentiments concerning things of the greateſt moment."

‡ "For the materials of the Appendix, I am indebted to a MS. paper written by the late Profeſſor Anderſon, and read before the Literary Society in Glaſgow College."

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ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE IMAGINATION; AND ON THE FRENZY OF TASSO AND COLLINS.

"POETRY, to attain its higheſt point of perfection, demands an invention fertile in the extreme, and practiſed in the art of combination, and which, ſeizing hold of the ſuperſtitions and fears of mankind, pours forth fictions of the moſt wild and horrible grandeur. The actions and conceptions of ſuperhuman beings preſerve, in the creations of Genius, a certain veriſimilitude which rivets attention, and wins even upon incredulity itſelf; and he who wiſhes powerfully to impreſs upon others the mingled emotions of terror and delight, muſt himſelf be tinctured with ſome portion of belief in the interference of immaterial agency. The metaphyſic wonders of Gothic ſuperſtition were, in the ſixteenth century, abſolutely a part of the creed of all ranks of ſociety; and the poetic productions of that period, being deeply tinged with the popular ideas, operated an effect upon the mind nearly, or, perhaps, altogether unfelt in our ſceptical and philoſophic age. The ideas, however, relative to the re-appearance of the departed, ſtill linger among us, and are occaſionally known to exert all their wonted influence; and he who has a true taſte for poetry yet dwells, with unfated rapture, on the dreadful and myſterious imagery of our elder bards.

"But it is greatly to be lamented that, in ſome inſtances, the nobleſt mind has been laid in ruins by ſuffering a train of idea of this kind ſo far to intrude upon the common occurrences of life, as, in the end, to induce either profound melancholy, or abſolute frenzy. The celebrated Taſſo flouriſhed in an era when the Gothic mythology ſtill retained its full influence, and poſſeſſing a vaſt and prolific imagination, together with an hypochondriacal temperament, and greatly attached, at the ſame time, to the Platonic philoſophy, whoſe beautiful but viſionary doctrines have miſled the moſt ſuperior minds, he mingled the two ſuperſtitions, and cheriſhed his partiality for all that was greatly wonderful and ſingular. The compoſition of his immortal epic, by giving ſcope to the boldeſt flights, and calling into effect the energies of his exalted and enthuſiaſtic fancy, whilſt, with equal ardour, it led him to entertain hopes of immediate and extenſive fame, laid, moſt probably, the foundation of his ſucceeding derangement. His ſuſceptibility, too, and tenderneſs of feeling, were great, and when his ſublime work met with unexpected oppoſition, and was even treated with contempt

tempt and deriſion, the fortitude of the poet was not proof againſt the keen ſenſe of diſappointment. He twice attempted to pleaſe his ignorant and malignant critics by recompoſing the poem; and, during the hurry, the anguiſh, and irritation attending theſe efforts, the vigour of a great mind was entirely exhauſted, and in two years after the publication of his Geruſalemme Liberata, the unhappy bard became an object of pity and of terror!

" According to Giovanni Battiſta Manſo, the great friend and biographer of Taſſo, and from whom the cauſes of his alienation of mind, we have juſt aſſigned, are drawn, his madneſs was accompanied with the perſuaſion of his being under the influence of witchcraft, and attended by an apparition; and Taſſo himſelf, in a letter to Mauritio Cataneo, thus notices this very extraordinary ſupernatural Being, whom he terms folletto. 'You 'muſt know that I was bewitched, and 'have never been cured; and, perhaps, have more need of an exorciſt 'than of a phyſician; becauſe my diſorder proceeds from magical art. I 'would likewiſe write a few words reſpecting my dæmon: the raſcal hath 'lately robbed me of many crown 'pieces; I know not the amount, as I 'am by no means a miſer in reckoning 'my money, but, I dare ſay, they 'amount to twenty. He hath likewiſe 'turned all my books topſy-turvy; 'opened my cheſts; robbed me of my 'keys, which I could not keep from 'him. I am at all times unhappy, but eſpecially in the night. I know not 'whether my diſeaſe proceeds from 'frenzy, or not.' After he had left the hoſpital of St. Ann's at Ferrara, whither he had been ſent by Duke Alfonzo, and where he had been attended by the moſt-eminent phyſicians, he again, in a letter to Cataneo, mentions this ſpiritual thief. 'This day, 'the laſt of the year, the brother of 'the Rev. Signior Licino has brought 'me two of your letters; but one of 'them was taken from me, as ſoon as 'I had read it, and, I believe, the 'folletto muſt have carried it off, be'cauſe it is that in which he is men'tioned: and this is one of the mira'cles which I have ſeen often in the 'hoſpital. Theſe things, I am certain, 'are done by ſome magician; and I 'have many arguments of it; particu'larly of a loaf viſibly ſtolen from me 'one afternoon, and a plate of fruit 'taken from before me the other day, 'when a Poliſh gentleman came to ſee 'me, worthy, indeed, to be a witneſs 'of ſuch a wonder*.'

" 'Manſo afterwards tells us that 'Taſſo would frequently in company 'be quite abſtracted in his frenzy; 'would talk to himſelf, and laugh profuſely; and would fix his eyes keenly 'upon vacancy for a long time, and 'then ſay that he ſaw his familiar 'ſpirit; and deſcribe him as under the 'ſemblance of an angelic youth, ſuch 'as he paints him in his dialogue of '*Le Meſſagiero*. Manſo particularly 'mentions that once Taſſo, angry at 'his incredulity, told him that he 'ſhould ſee the ſpirit with his own 'eyes. Accordingly next day, when 'they were talking together and ſitting 'by the fire, Taſſo ſuddenly darted 'his eyes to a window in the room, 'and ſat ſo intent, that, when Manſo 'ſpoke to him, he returned no ſort of 'anſwer. At laſt he turned to him 'and ſaid: "Behold the friendly ſpirit, who is courteouſly come to converſe with me; look at him, and 'perceive the truth of my words." 'Manſo immediately threw his eyes 'towards the ſpot; but with his keeneſt 'viſion could ſee nothing, but the rays 'of the ſun ſhining through the window into the chamber. While he 'was thus ſtaring, Taſſo had entered 'into lofty diſcourſe with the ſpirit, 'as he perceived from his ſhare of the 'dialogue: that of the ſpirit was not 'audible to him; but he ſolemnly declares that the diſcourſe was ſo grand 'and marvellous, and contained ſuch 'lofty things, expreſſed in a moſt unuſual mode, that he remained in ecſtacy, and did not dare to open his 'mouth ſo much as to tell Taſſo that 'the ſpirit was not viſible to him. In 'ſome time, the ſpirit being gone, as 'Manſo could judge, Taſſo turned to 'him with a ſmile, and ſaid, "he 'hoped he was now convinced." To 'which Manſo replied, "that he had, 'indeed, heard wonderful things; but 'had ſeen nothing." Taſſo ſaid, "Perhaps you have heard and ſeen more 'than ——" he then paſued; 'and Manſo ſeeing him in ſilent medi-

* "Vita di Torquato Taſſo ſcritta da Gio. Battiſta Manſo."

'tation, did not care to perplex him 'with further queſtions *.'

"Had Taſſo not formed extravagant ſchemes of happineſs and fame, which are ſeldom, if ever, realized, and had corrected the fervour of an imagination too prone to admit the preternatural and ſtrange, by cultivating thoſe ſciences which depend upon demonſtrative evidence, or by mingling more with the world, and diſcriminating its various characters and foibles, the integrity of his mind had, moſt probably, been preſerved. Shakſpeare poſſeſſed in a far ſuperior degree, if I may be allowed the term, the powers of ſuperhuman creation, and no poet ever enjoyed ſuch an unlimited dominion over the fears and ſuperſtitions of mankind. Yet the acuteneſs, the inexhauſtible variety of his genius, his talents for humour, and his almoſt intuitive penetration into the follies and vices of his ſpecies, enabled him to avoid, in a great meaſure, that credulity which his wild, terrific, yet delightful and conſiſtent fictions, almoſt riveted upon others. Milton, too, had a peculiar predilection for traditionary tales and legendary lore, and, in his early youth, ſpent much time in reading romantic narratives: but the deep and varied erudition which diſtinguiſhed his career (for no man in Europe, at that time, poſſeſſed a wider field of intellect), ſufficiently protected him from their deluſive influence, though, to the lateſt period of his life, he ſtill retained much of his original partiality. Oſſian, however, that melancholy but ſublime bard of other times, ſeems to have given implicit credit to the ſuperſtitions of his country, and his poems are, therefore, replete with a variety of immaterial agents; but theſe are of a kind rather calculated to ſooth and ſupport the mind, than to ſhake and harrow it, as the Gothic, with malignant and myſterious potency.

"In the preſent century, when ſcience and literature have ſpread ſo extenſively, the heavy clouds of ſuperſtition have been diſperſed, and have aſſumed a lighter and leſs formidable hue; for though the tales of Walpole, Reeve, and Radcliffe, or the poetry of Wieland †, Burger, and Lewis, ſtill powerfully arreſt attention, and keep an ardent curioſity alive, yet is their machinery, by no means, an object of popular belief, nor can it, I ſhould hope, now lead to dangerous credulity, as when in the times of Taſſo, Shakſpeare, and even Milton, witches and wizards, ſpectres and fairies, were nearly as important ſubjects of faith as the moſt ſerious doctrines of religion.

"Yet have we had one melancholy inſtance, and toward the middle of the eighteenth century, where diſappointment, operating upon enthuſiaſm, has induced effects ſomewhat ſimilar to thoſe recorded of the celebrated Italian. In the year 1756 died our lamented Collins, one of our moſt exquiſite poets, and of whom, perhaps, without exaggeration it may be aſſerted, that he partook of the credulity and enthuſiaſm of Taſſo, the magic wildneſs of Shakſpeare, the ſublimity of Milton, and the pathos of Oſſian. He had early formed ſanguine expectations of fame and applauſe, but reaped nothing but penury and neglect; and ſtung with indignation at the unmerited treatment his productions had met with, he burnt the remaining copies with his own hands. His Odes to Fear, on the Poetical Character, to Evening, the Paſſions, and on the Superſtitions of the Highlands of Scotland, ſtrongly mark the bias of his mind to all that is awfully wild and terrible. His addreſs to Fear,

'Dark Power! with ſhudd'ring meek
ſubmitted thought,
'Be mine to read the viſions old
'Which thy awakening bards have told:
'And, leſt thou meet my blaſted view,
'Hold each ſtrange tale devoutly true—'

was prompted by what he actually felt; for, like Taſſo, he was, in ſome meaſure, a convert to the imagery he drew;

* "Vide Letters of Literature, p. 379."

† "The *Oberon* of this exquiſite poet, which, in ſportive play of fancy, may vie with the muſe of Shakſpeare, and which, in the conduct of its fable, is ſuperior to any work extant, richly merits an Engliſh dreſs. It is ſaid that the late Mr. Sixt of Canterbury left a tranſlation of this epic. If it be well executed, it would be a highly valuable preſent to the public ‡."

‡ A tranſlation of Wieland's *Oberon*, by Mr. Sotheby, was publiſhed in May 1798. *See Bl. Epit. vol.* ii. *p.* 198. Ed.

drew; and the beautiful lines in which he deſcribes the Italian, might, with equal propriety, be applied to himſelf:

'Prevailing poet, whoſe undoubting mind
'Believ'd the magic wonders which he ſung*.'

"His powers, however, in exciting the tender emotions were ſuperior to Taſſo's, and, in pathetic ſimplicity, nothing, perhaps, can exceed his Odes to Pity, on the Death of Colonel Roſs, on the Death of Thomſon, and his Dirge in Cymbeline, which abound with paſſages that irreſiſtibly make their way to the heart.

"He who could feel, with ſo much ſenſibility, the ſorrows and misfortunes of others, and could pour the plaint of woe with ſuch harmonious ſkill, was ſoon himſelf to be an object of extreme compaſſion. His anxiety and diſtreſs, rendered doubly poignant by a very ſplendid imagination, in the event produced unconquerable melancholy and occaſional fits of frenzy; and, under the preſſure of theſe afflictions, which gradually increaſed, periſhed one of the ſweeteſt of our poets, and who ever approached the lyre with a mind glowing with inſpiration." *Vol. i. p. 55*

(To be continued.)

XLVII. *A Walk through ſome of the Weſtern Counties of England.* By the Rev. RICHARD WARNER, of Bath. 8vo. pp. 222. 7s. Bath: printed by *Crutwell; Robinſons*, London.

PLATES,

In Aquatinta, by Alken.

CULBONE Church, Somerſetſhire.
Berry Pomeroy Caſtle, Devonſhire.

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EXTRACTS.

GLASTONBURY.

"A FLAT road, interſecting what for the moſt part formerly was nothing but a ſpongy moor, ſtretches in nearly a ſtraight line from Wells to Glaſtonbury, affording no object of intereſt or curioſity. But this deficiency was amply made up on my entrance into the town, which juſtly boaſts itſelf as one of the oldeſt in England. Here veſtiges of ancient magnificence appeared on every ſide, and prepared me for the ruins of the immenſe abbey, from which I am juſt returned. Mouldings of portals, capitals of pilaſters, and ſtone ribs of roofs, the ſpoil of edifices once auguſt, are ſtuck in the walls of the ignoble reſidences of modern times; and ſcarcely can the traveller take a ſtep, without being reminded by ſome fragment of maſonry, or ſome ancient manſion with its arched portal and its ſpandrilled windows, that Glaſtonbury has ſuffered a moſt lamentable reverſe of fortune.

* "Ode on the Popular Superſtitions of the Highlands."

"On

"On paſſing down the ſtreet, the church of St. John attracted my attention, particularly its tower, which is wonderfully light and beautiful. Indeed a peculiar good taſte in the deſign of church towers ſeems to pervade the greateſt part of Somerſetſhire, ariſing, probably, from their being all copies of ſome excellent original. This of St. John's appears to have been formerly ornamented in a very ſuperior ſtyle. The weight of its battlements is much relieved by perpendicular lancet-like perforations, which add conſiderably to its lightneſs, and its lower diviſion has handſome Gothic niches for the reception of ſtatues as large as life. Of theſe figures, which appear to be clerics robed in their veſtments, only five now remain; three on the ſouth, and two on the weſt ſide of the tower: the tenants of the northern niches are removed. A ſuperb ſharply-pointed arch forms the weſtern entrance into the church, conſiſting of many mouldings, in one of the intervals between which runs a rich pattern of wreathed tendrils, bearing leaves and flowers. The ſpandrils of the door-way contain the repreſentation of a lamb with a flag, the apocalyptical emblem of the ſaint to whom the church is dedicated; and a pelican feeding its own young, referring to the neighbouring abbey of Glaſtonbury.

"Somewhat further down the ſtreet on the ſame ſide, a moſt curious old ſtone edifice offered a claim to my notice. The lofty gateway, and a vaſt projecting maſs of ſtone-work on which the ſign is hung, ſufficiently evinced that it had been long intended for a houſe of public reception; and as it appeared to be at preſent applied to the ſame purpoſes, under the auſpices of that worthy Chriſtian knight St. George, I entered its venerable walls, and depoſited my baggage on an old oaken table, that ſeemed to be nearly coeval with the building. Having refreſhed myſelf with gammon and ale ſufficiently good for an abbot's table, and made arrangements for my nocturnal board and repoſe, I ſtrolled out to ſurvey the outſide of my caravanſary; the remainder of the town, and the ruins of its monaſtery. The George Inn, for ſo it is named, was built in the fifteenth century, for the uſe and entertainment of the numerous pilgrims who viſited the ſhrines and relics of Glaſtonbury, and the holy thorn which grew in its neighbourhood. Its front has a flat projecting bow on each ſide of the gateway, the whole of it ornamented with little niches, curious ſculptures, and armorial bearings. Amongſt theſe may be diſtinguiſhed the arms of ſeveral abbots; a chevron, engrailed *azure* between three croſſes *gules*; per pale *vert* and *azure*; per pale *azure* and *gules*. The ſummit of the houſe is turreted, and the ſpaces between the battlements ſeem formerly to have been adorned with human figures of ſtone. Only two of theſe are now remaining: their heads inclined downwards, as if they were obſerving the gueſts as they entered the gateway. Whether the many *female* devotees, who under the reign of Romiſh ſuperſtition travelled to Glaſtonbury, and repoſed themſelves at the George Inn, came *ſolely* for the purpoſe of viſiting the tombs of the ſaints or the miraculous tree of Joſeph, is rendered rather problematical, by a ſecret paſſage (diſcovered many years ſince) connecting this *Hoſpitium* with the Abbey. It lies immediately under the houſe, purſues its ſubterraneous courſe quite to the oppoſite ſide of the town, reaches the monaſtery, and there terminates—not at the chapel of a patron ſaint, or the mauſoleum of a pious founder, but—at a ſhort flight of ſteps, which aſcended formerly to the *bed-chamber* of my *Lord Abbot!!!*" *P.* 18.

SOUTH-BRENT CHURCH—KING ETHELRED.

"THE only curioſity of South-Brent is its little church, which has many veſtiges of antiquity both within and without. Its *ſeating* is particularly curious, being certainly anterior to the Reformation. Inſtead of *pews*, it has (like the Ruſſian churches) a regular ſeries of plain oaken benches, with a back to each, running from either ſide towards the middle of the church, at right angles with the wall. The flat boards which form the terminations of theſe ſeats, are curiouſly and variouſly carved with ſubjects moſt groteſque and ludicrous; ſuch as a fox or an aſs in a mitre; a pig roaſting, and a monkey acting the part of turnſpit; a party of geeſe hanging a pig; a monkey at prayers; a pig preaching, &c. Theſe caricature carvings I ſhould conſider as inſtances of practi-

cal

cal ſatire by the parochial clergy againſt the mendicant orders; for it is well known that the moſt inveterate antipathy ſubſiſted between the parish-prieſts and the friars, in conſequence of that conſiderable influence which the latter had obtained by their abſurd vows and itinerant preaching. Doubtleſs, at the period when theſe ſculptural repreſentations were made, their meaning and alluſions were well underſtood, and being always before the eyes of the congregations, they kept alive, by the powerful means of *ridicule*, that contempt for the Dominicans and Franciſcans, which all the oratory of the parochial clergy would not probably have been able to excite; ſo true is the excellent obſervation of one well verſed in the hiſtory of the human heart—

'*Ridiculum acri*
'Fortius et melius magnas plerumque ſecat res.'

The *font* alſo lays claim to a conſiderable antiquity, being deep and capacious, intended for the *total immerſion* of the infant to be baptized. This, you know, was the ancient mode of performing the ceremony; and only diſuſed within theſe two centuries, when good ſenſe getting the better of prejudice, the cuſtom almoſt univerſally diſappeared, to the great benefit of population; ſince the chances muſt have been very conſiderably againſt any infant which was thus, within the month, unmercifully plunged over head and ears into a bath of cold water. *Little accidents*, indeed, frequently occurred, whilſt the practice continued, to the poor half-drowned children; one of which has been thought of ſufficient importance to be incorporated into the page of metrical hiſtory. It relates to King Ethelred, the miſerable idiot whoſe inglorious reign ſaw the Daniſh power eſtabliſhed in this country. Archbiſhop Dunſtan had the honour of baptizing the royal babe; but the ſhock or the fright, occaſioned by the immerſion, produced in the infant the moſt unſeemly and offenſive effects. The prelate, whoſe olfactory nerves were probably ſomewhat diſtreſſed by the circumſtance, returned the child to its nurſe in a paſſion, exclaiming at the ſame time, '*Per Deum et matrem ejus, ignavus homo erit!*—By God and his mother, 'this will be a moſt *ſcurvy ſcoundrel*!' a prophecy which ſubſequent events completely accompliſhed." *P.* 83.

NATURAL CURIOSITIES AT MINEHEAD.

"THE admirer of Nature may indulge his purſuits here in various ways; the beautiful hills and precipitous cliffs offer to the botaniſt a variety of rare and curious plants; the ſhore ſpreads before the conchologiſt a rich profuſion of *buccina*, *trochi*, *nerites*, *tellini*, and other ſhells; and the geologiſt will find ſufficient phenomena to employ all his ſagacity, and exerciſe his whole talent for hypotheſis. Amongſt them is the following curious appearance:—about a mile from the Lower Town, on the beach leading to Dunſter, at the receſs of the tide a ſpot is denuded, in which are diſcovered many roots of prodigiouſly large trees, peeping out of the ſand, to the height of half a foot or more. Externally, theſe maſſes are black and unintelligible; but when crumbled between the fingers (for they are ſoft and friable) the genuine colour and original texture of the wood are plainly ſeen. The wonder, however, remains to be told, that when the fragments are broken parallel to the grain of the wood, imbedded in the very heart are found ſhells, foreign to the coaſt of Somerſetſhire, in a ſemi-foſſil ſtate, and oak-leaves, either perfect or decayed.

"A ſpecies of *patellæ*, too, is very common on the rocks of Minehead, a good ſubſtitute for the famous *murex* of antiquity, that produced the invaluable Tyrian dye, with which the ancients ſtained their wool,

'Tyrio ardebat murice lana.'

"A ſmall vein running over the head of the fiſh contains this precious liquor, with which if linen be ſtained, and the characters expoſed to different degrees of the *light* of the *ſun*, they will change their hue, and become ſucceſſively (from a dull white) pea-green, deep green, blue, and purple; the linen being then waſhed in ſcalding water, the marks upon it will blaze out into a ſplendid crimſon colour, which no future waſhings can obliterate." *P.* 83.

"* W. Worceſter. Lib. Nig. Scac. p. 530, ed. 1728."

WOOKEY

WOOKEY HOLE.

"THE approach to Wookey Hole is extremely fine. It exhibits a deep indentation in the ſouth-weſtern ſide of the Mendip hills; the back formed by a broad face of perpendicular rock, riſing to the height of two hundred feet, naked towards the top, but enriched with foliage and vegetation, thickening as the cliff deſcends. The ſides conſiſt of rocky ſteeps, gradually riſing from the bottom of the dell, till they unite with the cliff above, entirely covered with wood. At the root of the rock which forms the back of this gloomy receſs, a thundering torrent iſſues from an aperture of eleven yards in height, and fourteen in breadth (impervious, however, on account of the ſtream), anddiſcharges itſelf through the bottom, though rendered inviſible by the deep ſhade of the trees which over-canopy it. The road to the cavern, made eaſy and commodious by Mr. Tudway, of Wells, creeps along the ſteep that forms the weſtern ſide of this hollow, and aſcending very gradually, reaches a ledge of rock, about eighty feet above the level of the ſtream below. Here a cavern opens its dire jaws 'wide, diſcontinuous,' the interior of which is ſafely ſecured, by a door well locked, from the intruſion of the profane. Into this aperture I was introduced, by a guide provided with candles and lantern. For the firſt twenty yards we purſued a range of galleries or paſſages, ſufficiently lofty to allow our walking upright. The cavern then aſcends; but narrowing its breadth, and decreaſing in height, it quickly dips again, and ſpreads ſuddenly into a grand opening called the *kitchen*, ſo high as to preſent nothing to the eye but gloomy vacuity. To this ſucceeds another cavern, called the *parlour*, more ſpacious and lofty than the former, where incruſtations of whimſical forms, and more whimſical names, appear on all ſides. Here ſuperſtition and imagination, working together, have made out a pillar of ſalt; an enormous petrified kidney; a turnſpit dog; a flitch of bacon; and an old witch. The laſt apartment is called the *hall*, an immenſe hollow, ſtretching one hundred feet in length and breadth, the bottom conſiſting for the moſt part of ſand, hard, fine, and dry. At the extremity of this the rock deſcends to a pool of limpid water, and forbids any further reſearch into its ſecret receſſes.

"I had no doubt that a place, ſo well calculated for witches and hobgoblins, had been peopled with theſe active gentry by the inhabitants of its neighbourhood, and queſtioned my guide on the ſubject. He aſſured me, however, that the cavern had never but one inmate, an old witch, who had monopolized the whole of it to herſelf. She had been turned, years ago, into a ſtone, by a parſon, as ſhe was cooking a child in her kitchen, which ſhe had ſtolen from the village; but he had heard his grandmother ſay, her father remembered the wicked old woman, as well as the tricks ſhe played; how ſhe would maim the cattle, bewitch the young maids, and torture the old people with cramps and twitches. Fortunately for the lovers of legend, the tradition related by my guide has been reſcued from the inſatiable maw of oblivion by a modern poet, who has drawn out the oral tale into viſion, and ſecured it to poſterity by an elegant verſification, the beauty of which will enſure its duration *." *P.* 208.

XLVIII. *Poems, Epiſtolary, Lyric, and Elegiacal;* in three Parts. By the Rev. THOMAS MAURICE, A. M. aſſiſtant Librarian of the Britiſh Muſeum. 8vo. pp. 284. 9s. *Wright.*

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* "See Percy's Reliques of Ancient Poetry, vol. i."

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IMPROMPTU, TO A LADY ENGAGED AT COMMERCE.

"WHILE anxious Delia hopes three *lives* to ſave,
And ſnatch her pearly treaſure from the grave,
She heeds not that, conſum'd with waſting fires,
Cloſe by her ſide a hapleſs youth expires!
Ah! toil not for imagin'd *lives*, my fair,
But ſhield a *dying* lover from deſpair;
One human life preſerve, and raptures know,
Greater than Ind and Ormus can beſtow." *P.* 3.

ON A BEAUTIFUL GREEK, AT CHURCH, BY A PRIEST OF SMYRNA.

"TO paint ſome heavenly form when Raphael tries,
And bids an angel on the canvaſs riſe,
With juſt that ſmile he bids his features glow,
With juſt that grace his auburn treſſes flow;
Such the ſoft bloom his youthful cheek arrays,
Such the mild innocence his look diſplays.
Forgive me, Heav'n, if, while thy rites I pay,
My wandering thoughts on thy fair creature ſtray;
If cold and languid my devotions riſe,
While earth affords ſo fair a paradiſe!" *P.* 7.

TO SIR WILLIAM JONES, ON THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF HIS ASIATIC POEMS.

"WHITHER does Fancy ſtretch her rapid wing,
Through what new regions of ſerener ſpring?

My raviſh'd ſenſe an opening Eden greets,
A waſte of treaſures, and a wild of ſweets—
Entranc'd I ſeem through fairy bow'rs to ſtray,
Where ſcatter'd rubies pave the ſpangled way;
Tranſparent walks, with poliſh'd ſapphires bright,
And fountains * ſparkling with ambroſial light.
" A ſweeter lyre no eaſtern ſwain hath ſtrung,
More ſoftly warbled, or more boldly ſung;
Whether, great Bard, thy vigorous muſe rehearſe
Solima's deathleſs praiſe, in deathleſs verſe;
Or, tun'd to grief, the melting numbers move,
Breathing the ſofteſt tales of plaintive love:
Tender as Petrarch's flows th'impaſſion'd line,
Nor Vida boaſts a chaſter page than thine.
" Yet not that Britain's laurels round thy head,
And Arab's palms with rival luſtre ſpread,
For this I ſing——but that, with fix'd diſdain,
Thy Roman ſoul refus'd the flatterer's ſtrain;
And dar'd prefer (unvers'd in courtly guile)
Virtue's juſt praiſe beyond a monarch's ſmile †." *P.* 64.

* " Alluding to the beautiful allegorical Poem of the Seven Fountains."
† " See the Preface to Nadir Shah, towards the concluſion."

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